

**council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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



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**council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 102/PV/1

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102º período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING  
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE  
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA  
(9 November 1992)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière 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

TRIBUTE TO MR ADDEKE HENDRIK BOERMA  
HOMMAGE A M. ADDEKE HENDRIK BOERMA  
HOMENAJE AL SR. ADDEKE HENDRIK BOERMA

**LE PRESIDENT:** Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord vous souhaiter la bienvenue. Je souhaite également qu'au cours de la présente session, qui est la cent deuxième session du Conseil, nous ayons l'occasion d'effectuer un fructueux travail. Comme vous le savez, le Conseil est l'organe exécutif de l'Organisation ainsi que le prévoit le Règlement général dans son article XXIV.

Je déclare ouverte la cent deuxième session du Conseil. C'est ici et nulle part ailleurs que doivent se débattre régulièrement et éventuellement se régler toutes les questions intéressant l'Organisation. Si vous le permettez, je voudrais tout d'abord évoquer la mémoire de celui qui fut le Directeur général de l'Organisation, M. Addeke Hendrick Boerma qui, depuis la dernière session du Conseil, plus exactement le 8 mai 1992, est décédé à Vienne. Le Dr Boerma, qui était diplômé de l'Université de Wageningen, exerçait dans son pays, dans le secteur de l'agriculture, d'importantes fonctions. Dès 1946, il a été en relations étroites avec notre Organisation. Il a d'ailleurs, au début, représenté son gouvernement à l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Dès 1948, il a assumé le poste de représentant régional de la FAO pour l'Europe. Il est ensuite devenu Directeur de la Division économique. En 1958, il a été nommé Directeur du Service du Programme et des questions budgétaires. En 1960, il a été élevé au poste de Sous-Directeur général et, en 1962, il est devenu le premier Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial. En 1967, il a été élu Directeur général de la FAO et il a été ensuite réélu, terminant ses fonctions en 1975. Durant tout son mandat, le Dr Boerma a dû faire face à une série de problèmes difficiles dont la première opération de secours importante pour les pays du Sahel, en 1973. Après la fin de sa carrière, le Dr Boerma a habité à Vienne et il a continué à suivre de près tous les problèmes de développement et tous ceux intéressant la grande famille des Nations Unies.

Je vous demanderai, pour commémorer sa mémoire, une minute de silence en souvenir de celui qui fut le premier Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial et, pendant deux mandats, le Directeur général de la FAO: M. Boerma.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

Je voudrais, avec votre permission, saluer la présence parmi nous de deux ministres, le premier étant Son Excellence Adel Cortas, que j'ai le plaisir de bien connaître et qui connaît particulièrement bien la FAO car il a travaillé pour notre Organisation pendant de longues années et il est actuellement Ministre de l'agriculture du Liban.

Quisiera también saludar al Excmo. Secretario de Estado de Pesca, el Sr. Jiménez Morales, de México, y agradecerle su presencia entre nosotros. Sé que se quedará únicamente durante este día.

Avec votre permission, avant d'entamer la discussion sur l'ordre du jour et le calendrier, je voudrais régler de manière tout à fait provisoire un problème qui s'est déjà posé et qui semble avoir été abondamment discuté dans différents groupes. Il s'agit de la présence de la Communauté économique européenne. Vous vous rappellerez que, lors de la dernière Conférence, en novembre 1991, le problème a été abondamment discuté. Nous l'avons également évoqué à la réunion du Conseil qui a suivi immédiatement la Conférence, en l'occurrence la cent unième session du Conseil, qui s'est tenue le 28 novembre 1991. Il a été noté, à l'époque, que la CEE, en qualité de membre de l'Organisation, pouvait participer aux sessions du Conseil dans les matières de sa compétence mais ne pouvait jamais participer aux élections auxquelles doit procéder le Conseil. Je donne lecture de la déclaration qui avait été faite par le Conseiller juridique, M. Moore.

The Council was also informed that the seating arrangements for the EEC were in the process of being modified to accommodate its new status as a Member Organization.

Je voudrais tout d'abord dire qu'il est important pour l'avenir que la Déclaration de compétences en question puisse parvenir en temps utile et qu'une règle devrait être définie pour déterminer dans quels délais la Déclaration de compétences doit parvenir aux Etats Membres - Déclaration de compétences qui doit être la plus exhaustive et la plus complète possible. Or la Déclaration de compétences dont j'ai pris connaissance, il y a quelques jours à peine, est parvenue à la plupart des Etats Membres dans l'après-midi de vendredi. Je crois qu'il faudrait que nous puissions établir une règle de conduite qui ne doit pas nécessairement se trouver formalisée dans des textes, mais qui doit être moralement contraignante de façon à ce que tous les Etats Membres puissent avoir l'assurance de recevoir la déclaration de compétence au moins une semaine ou dix jours avant le début de chaque session, soit du Conseil, soit des différents comités. Il y aurait lieu de fixer une règle non écrite, ou de faire une recommandation pratiquement contraignante prévoyant les délais d'envoi de la déclaration de compétence.

Il s'est posé ensuite un grave problème, qui a retenu mon attention et qui a peut-être provoqué des nuits raccourcies; c'est le problème de la localisation de la Communauté économique européenne durant la présente session.

Je me trouve devant le plan de la Salle Rouge que j'ai sous les yeux avec un grand rectangle et deux places vides qui se trouvent un peu en dehors de l'axe. Je sais qu'il y a eu des réunions où on a parlé de l'ordre alphabétique ou d'un autre ordre. Le problème s'est donc posé de savoir où allait se trouver la Communauté économique européenne, dans le rectangle, qui n'est pas tout à fait un rectangle, puisqu'il y a des places qui font que le rectangle n'est plus un rectangle, ou en dehors du rectangle.

Ce grave problème devrait recevoir une ébauche de solution. J'ai consulté tous les textes concernant ce problème, et j'ai vu qu'en réalité il n'existait aucun texte, sinon les amendements à l'Acte constitutif et au Règlement général qui furent votés lors de la Conférence de 1991. Il y avait la possibilité de faire entrer la Communauté économique européenne dans les matières de sa compétence, où elle a the right to speak et de prier les Etats Membres, qui en l'occurrence sont au sein du Conseil, la France, l'Allemagne, l'Italie, les Pays-Bas, le Portugal et le Royaume-Uni, de quitter le rectangle dans les matières de compétence exclusive. Je crois que ce jeu qui consiste à entrer et à sortir me paraît quelque peu un jeu d'enfants.

Etant saisi de la demande de la Communauté, qui est pratiquement l'exigence que l'ordre alphabétique puisse être suivi, je n'ai trouvé de référence à l'ordre alphabétique qu'en ce qui concerne la procédure des votes. Là, il est prévu que l'ordre alphabétique doit être suivant la traduction de tous les noms des pays en langue anglaise. Cela me paraît très clair. Mais pour le reste, la localisation des différents Etats, tant dans la salle de Conférence que dans la salle du Conseil ou dans les autres salles des différents comités, n'est pas prévue dans les Textes fondamentaux.

Après avoir longuement réfléchi, et nonobstant le souhait de la Communauté ainsi que des douze Etats Membres de voir respecter une tradition non écrite de l'ordre alphabétique, qui eût comme conséquence que la Communauté se fût trouvée entre l'Egypte et la France, je me suis dit qu'étant donné que nous sommes dans une phase expérimentale, la meilleure solution était que la Communauté économique européenne vienne après les 49 membres du Conseil à la cinquantième place.

Certains avaient proposé les deux places libres: la 33ème et la 51ème. Je ne suis pas très enthousiaste. Je crois qu'il faut rapprocher les membres du Conseil. La Communauté sera appelée à jouer un rôle important, et je regrette d'ailleurs qu'elle n'ait pas joué, depuis un an, un rôle plus important que celui qu'elle a joué au jour d'aujourd'hui. Mais je crois avoir reçu l'assurance et les promesses formelles que dans les tous prochains jours les engagements qui ont été pris seront enfin respectés, et en ce qui me concerne, je peux assurer le Conseil que j'y veillerai avec beaucoup de vigilance.

Nous nous trouvons devant une solution qui est tout à fait provisoire et je proposerai que la Communauté se voit octroyée la 50ème place, après les 49 autres, et que pour l'avenir, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, présidé par Don Samuel Fernandez Illanes que je vois devant nous, soit saisi de cet important problème, examine les règles en matière d'ordre alphabétique, examine les textes que Don Samuel connaît très bien puisqu'il a été Président de la Commission III au sein de la Conférence de 1991, qu'il examine avec son Comité la portée de ces textes, les conséquences qui en découlent pour cet important problème de siège.

Je me souviens d'ailleurs qu'on a discuté de la question de savoir si le coût du nouveau fauteuil allait être imputé à la Communauté ou non ou si une formule spéciale devrait être trouvée. On en avait déjà discuté. J'ai eu l'honneur et le plaisir de participer aux activités particulièrement intéressantes du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et suis des lors au courant de ces discussions.

Je proposerai que ce Comité se penche sur le problème, fasse un rapport complet et que ce rapport soit transmis au prochain Conseil de 1993 à sa 103ème session, de façon à prendre une décision claire, nette, et, si possible, définitive, si tant est qu'il y a des solutions définitives dans la vie d'une Organisation... Ce que je propose, c'est une formule transactionnelle, en faisant un appel vibrant au représentant de la Communauté pour ce qui concerne les déclarations de compétence à venir, qu'on établisse une règle écrite ou non écrite, et en ce qui concerne les engagements pris, que le respect en soit assuré dans un très proche avenir.

S'il n'y a pas d'objections à cette proposition transactionnelle, je passerai au point suivant: l'ordre du jour. Mais si vous avez des remarques à faire, il va de soi que nous sommes disposés à les écouter. Il ne s'agit pas d'un

point de l'agenda, mais d'une question géographique pour laquelle cette formule de compromis pourrait, je pense, donner satisfaction à la majorité sinon à l'ensemble du Conseil.

S'il n'y a pas d'observations, il en est ainsi décidé.

Je crois que le Royaume-Uni désire intervenir sur le point précis qui concerne les observateurs.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** As the country holding the presidency of the European Community, I am now speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member states.

As we have already made clear on a number of occasions, the European Community and its member states do not accept that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is the automatic continuation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In this context, we take note of General Assembly Resolution 47/1 adopted on 22 September 1992, in which the Assembly considered that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) cannot continue automatically membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations, and decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should, therefore, apply to join the United Nations and should not participate in the work of the General Assembly.

The European Community and its member states have also noted the United Nations Legal Counsel's advice on the applicability of the General Assembly Resolution to other United Nations bodies.

We regard General Assembly Resolution 47/1 as a model for action in the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies in due course as appropriate. We do not accept that the representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) validly represent Yugoslavia in this meeting. The presence of the representatives in question is without prejudice to any future action which the Community and its member states will take to oppose the participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the work of FAO.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le Royaume-Uni de sa déclaration. J'ai sous les yeux la Résolution 47/1 qui a fait l'objet d'une discussion lors de la quarante-septième session de l'Assemblée générale.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** As the United States has also made clear on numerous occasions, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia no longer exists. Furthermore, the United States does not consider Serbia-Montenegro to be the continuation of or sole successor to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In this context we call attention to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/1 adopted on 22 September 1992 which determined that Serbia-Montenegro could not continue automatically the membership of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the General Assembly.

In that Resolution the General Assembly decided that Serbia-Montenegro should apply for membership in the Organization and should not participate in the

work of that body. Under the circumstances, we consider that the participation of the delegation in question in this Council meeting of the FAO is without prejudice to further action which may be taken on this issue.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je suppose que le Canada auquel je vais donner la parole, prendra une position analogue.

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** My delegation also wishes to support the position that has been expressed by the United States and by the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Community.

Canada does not accept that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia automatically continues the membership of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations, including the United Nations.

In this context, we also take note of General Assembly Resolution 47/1, which decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should apply for membership in the United Nations and that it shall not participate in the work of the General Assembly. Under the circumstances, we also consider that the participation of the delegation of Serbia-Montenegro in this meeting of the FAO Council is without prejudice to future action which might be taken on this issue.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais faire observer que la parole est réservée aux membres du Conseil. Je prends acte de la Déclaration faite par le Royaume-Uni au nom de la Communauté, par les Etats-Unis, et par le Canada.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

Je passe au point de l'ordre du jour: Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 102/1 et CL 102/INF/1) auquel nous devons joindre la déclaration de compétence de la Communauté économique européenne (CL 102/INF/19).

En ce qui concerne l'agenda et le calendrier, vous connaissez le texte de base: l'article XXV du Règlement général, qui prévoit que le Directeur général, en consultation avec le Président du Conseil et tenant compte de toutes les suggestions faites, établit un ordre du jour provisoire et l'envoie à tous les Etats Membres et membres associés 60 jours avant le début de la période des sessions, étant entendu que chaque membre du Conseil peut demander, 30 jours avant le début de la session, d'inclure un point déterminé complémentaire. Cela a été fait en l'espèce, à la demande du Mexique, en ce qui concerne le problème des pêches.



En ce qui concerne les points additionnels que certains désireraient peut-être ajouter, je rappelle qu'avec un vote des 2/3 au moins il est possible de tenir compte d'une suggestion d'un Etat Membre, étant entendu que la suggestion doit être clairement stipulée et que s'il s'agit d'un point additionnel je le soumettrai, s'il y a lieu, aux membres du Conseil.

Est-ce qu'il y a des remarques à faire en ce qui concerne l'agenda provisoire?

Je voudrais simplement signaler pour information qu'au point 6, en ce qui concerne les faits nouveaux survenus récemment dans le domaine des pêches internationales, on discutera ensemble le point 6.1 et le point 6.2.

En ce qui concerne le point 20: Rapports des cinquante-huitième et cinquante-neuvième sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, nous discuterons ensemble le point 20.6 et le point 20.7.

En ce qui concerne l'Agenda provisoire, et non pas le calendrier, il y a deux pays qui ont demandé d'intervenir: d'abord les Pays-Bas, et ensuite le Royaume-Uni. Si d'autres pays désirent intervenir, ils doivent s'inscrire maintenant parce qu'ensuite je clôturerai la liste des orateurs.

Nous avons donc: les Pays-Bas, le Royaume-Uni, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, l'Allemagne et le Canada.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I have two points. The first concerns TFAP. I think it would be better to deal with that matter under the provisional timetable. We need time to discuss that item because there was a special report of an ad hoc committee of the Council, and since it was discussed in the Programme Committee we can find a report in the Report of the Programme Committee; so I draw your attention to the need that we reserve enough time for discussion of the TFAP.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, can you help me to find where we can discuss the International Conference on Nutrition? It is difficult to find a place where we can discuss that matter, and I think it is important that the Council pay some attention to the organizational follow-up of that Conference and that we use the opportunity we have in this Council meeting to discuss that item.

Since I am the first speaker, I will tell you already that I support the United Kingdom in their statement.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais faire les remarques suivantes sur les deux points soulevés par les Pays-Bas.

En ce qui concerne le TFAP j'avais l'intention, mais j'ai été pris de court, de signaler lors de la discussion du calendrier provisoire que le point en discussion serait examiné le vendredi 13 novembre après-midi sous le point 12 de l'ordre du jour: Rapports des soixante-quatrième et soixante-cinquième sessions du Comité du programme. Nous discuterons du point TFAP vendredi après-midi 13 novembre, parce que je sais qu'un certain nombre de spécialistes doivent se rendre à une importante réunion de l'ITO à Tokyo et qu'ils comptent partir en fin de semaine. Vendredi la séance sera donc prolongée et nous aurons l'occasion de discuter largement du TFAP.

En ce qui concerne la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, je ferai remarquer au représentant des Pays-Bas qu'il y est fait allusion de manière très claire au point 9 de l'ordre du jour: Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies qui intéressent la FAO. Mme. Killingsworth abordera le problème. On aura l'occasion d'en discuter, si le calendrier provisoire devient définitif et est adopté par les Etats Membres, le jeudi 12 novembre au matin.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I am very grateful to the Netherlands for giving me carte blanche support on my statement before I make it. I apologize for intervening so early on the agenda but I should welcome your guidance, Mr Chairman, on whether the subject I should like to raise is appropriate for this point on the agenda and, if it is not, where on the agenda I should raise it.

My question relates to the process of the setting of the agenda. Would it be appropriate to address this matter here, Mr Chairman?

**LE PRESIDENT:** On peut en discuter si vous voulez mais je ferai remarquer que le processus d'établissement de l'ordre du jour est fixé, ainsi que je l'ai dit par le Règlement général de notre Organisation, à l'article XXV. Je ne vous donnerai pas lecture de cet article mais il est clair et net, et si à l'avenir il était dans les intentions du Royaume-Uni de proposer une modification du Règlement général, je crois qu'il faudrait alors qu'il se réfère, dans ce règlement, aux possibilités de réforme de ses dispositions. Vous trouverez dans les derniers articles la façon de procéder pour modifier le Règlement général.

Je vais maintenant redonner la parole au Royaume-Uni qui m'avait posé une question - à laquelle je croyais avoir répondu de façon précise. Cette question était la suivante: faut-il discuter de manière élaborée un ordre du jour? Il n'appartient certainement pas au Président de notre Conseil d'interpréter de manière extensive l'article XXV du Règlement général qui est net, clair, précis et complet. Maintenant si l'un d'entre vous désirait faire un exposé sur ses intentions pour information, je lui donnerai volontiers la parole, étant entendu que les modifications du Règlement général doivent suivre une procédure fixée par le Règlement général.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I am grateful for your clarification, Mr Chairman, although I am not sure that I fully understand it. I am also grateful for your anticipating my statement, as well as for the Netherlands anticipating.

For some time now my delegation has been somewhat concerned at the way the agenda-setting process, not just for the Council but for most meetings of the membership of the Organization, takes place. My delegation is fully familiar with the current process as set out in the Basic Texts, and as you have pointed out.

We are fully aware that in accordance with Rule XXV any member of the Council may request the Director General, not less than 30 days before the proposed date of any session, to insert an item on the provisional agenda and that during the session, the Council may, by a vote and at least a two-thirds majority of the Council, add to the agenda any proposed item for the Council.

We are, however, not convinced that in practice this actually fully meets the Membership's wishes. In some other organizations of the United Nations with which I deal there is much more active participation in the agenda setting process. If I may, Mr Chairman, cite UNICEF as an example, in that Organization, the Bureau, that is the Chair and Vice-Chair persons of the Executive Board, are elected at the preceding session.

In the period before the meeting of the Board there is extensive consultation between the Bureau and the Membership on the items to be included in the agenda. In fact, Mr Chairman, in our own Organization a similar sort of practice was initiated for the last Regional Conference for Europe which was held in Prague, in August. The membership of the region were consulted at a very early stage over items they wished to see included in the agenda. This worked extremely well and could be used as a model for other meetings of the Membership of this Organization.

Mr Chairman, I would just like to request that we, the Membership, and I fully accept the matter is in our hands, give this matter some thought, and I would just like to suggest that this issue could itself be included on the agenda of the next Session of the Council so that any amendments that may be needed and I am not suggesting there are any needed, I am saying may be needed -to the Basic Texts, to take account of this, could be put to the CCLM before the next Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie très vivement de votre intervention. Je voudrais vous faire remarquer que vous avez un Président du Conseil en ma personne et que vous avez encore à l'heure actuelle trois Vice-Présidents - parce que les trois Vice-Présidents qui ont été élus le 28 novembre 1991 exercent leur fonction jusqu'à la réélection prochaine des trois autres Vice-Présidents. Je connais très bien les trois Vice-Présidents actuels: M. Lamptey du Ghana, Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Juan Nuiry Sanchez de Cuba et notre ami Abdel Malek du Liban. Or, aucun de ces trois Vice-Présidents n'a été saisi d'une demande, telle que vous l'avez formulée. En effet, si l'un de ces trois Vice-Présidents ou moi-même avions été saisis d'une demande, je l'aurais évoquée.

En ce qui concerne votre proposition, puisque vous souhaitez qu'elle soit discutée au prochain Conseil, je vous demanderai de suivre le Règlement général qui est tout à fait complet et de présenter cette demande par écrit au Directeur général 30 jours au moins avant le début de la prochaine session du Conseil en expliquant de manière claire quel est le point que vous désirez soulever et voir discuter lors de cette session. Si vous souhaitez que l'on en discute à ce Conseil-ci, vous devrez suivre la procédure telle qu'elle est fixée à l'article XXV.7 c), auquel cas je soumettrai à l'appréciation du Conseil qui en délibérera et qui votera aux deux tiers.

Ce point est actuellement réglé, il est inutile de prolonger cette discussion. Nous avons un Règlement dont je rappelle la portée et nous n'allons pas ouvrir un débat. Si vous estimez que c'est un point d'ordre, je vous donnerai la parole mais je crois que nous sommes en train de retarder le débat.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, I welcome your long and detailed explanation of the rules and I think it is always useful for us to keep in mind those rules but I would like to mention, in a situation where

the United Nations system is facing unprecedented challenges, and dealing with many different issues at once, the rules do not always provide enough scope for flexibility that every organization needs in addressing issues; for in regard to that, Mr Chairman, I would like to reiterate my support, and my delegation's support, for earlier and broader consultative processes in setting the agenda with all the Member States so that we may ensure enough time is devoted to key items and that the Member States' concerns are clearly on the agenda of the Council and Conference and other meetings.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** Following your advice, Mr Chairman, I want to be very short so that other speakers can have the floor. I want to say at this moment only that I fully support the proposal of the United Kingdom which is that we have a discussion on the items we raised during the next Council.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous demanderai, suivant le Règlement, de présenter une proposition précise et concrète au moins 30 jours avant la prochaine session.

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** I too will be very brief and along the lines of the statement made by Germany. We also support the initiative of the United Kingdom to discuss these issues at the next Session and we will ensure the appropriate rules are followed so that we may have a debate at the next Session of Council.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci de votre intervention qui rejoint les interventions précédentes.

Y a-t-il d'autres remarques de fond sur le calendrier provisoire?

Je ne vois aucune demande d'intervention. Le calendrier est adopté.

En ce qui concerne ce calendrier j'avais l'intention de faire une intervention. Je pense avoir expliqué de façon claire que le point du Plan d'action forestier tropical serait discuté vendredi après-midi et en ce qui concerne la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, elle sera examinée au point 9 de l'ordre du jour le jeudi 12 novembre au matin.

Y a-t-il d'autres remarques sur le calendrier de la session?

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America) :** My delegation shares the concerns of the Netherlands and other delegations. We understand there is not enough time programmed in the current timetable for the discussion of TFAP and other forestry issues. Considering that, my delegation wishes to propose a slight modification to the provisional timetable. We would urge the discussion of Item 11 be combined with Item 14 and moved to Monday, November 16, in the morning, to ensure there is ample opportunity for the discussion of the critical forestry issues dealt with under the Programme Committee Item 12. If this proposal is adopted, we would then begin the discussion of Item 12 on Friday morning.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre suggestion mais je vous fais remarquer qu'à la demande instante de l'Honorable représentant des Pays-Bas j'ai signalé que nous débutions, en toute hypothèse et quel que soit le stade de nos travaux, le point 12 de l'ordre du jour au début de l'après-midi du vendredi 13 novembre. Nous aurons l'occasion de faire le pont jusqu'au 14 car s'il faut y consacrer toute une nuit nous le ferons. De toute façon la séance de vendredi sera prolongée, ce qui donnera l'occasion à tous d'avoir un très ample débat. Je peux vous assurer que compte tenu de la demande d'un certain nombre de délégations de pouvoir rejoindre Tokyo avec leurs experts le samedi, ce point sera clôturé dans la nuit. Nous aurons tout le temps voulu pour discuter de cette importante question.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** Mr Chairman, if I may once again seek yours and the Council's indulgence and guidance on a matter of process, we have before us today a very full agenda with a variety of topics for discussion and decision. I have on a number of occasions made the plea to this Council that we make every effort to try and adhere to the timetable.

My delegation, and I am sure other delegations to this Council, do all we can to do justice to the subject matters placed before us. However, given the variety of topics which range across a wide spectrum of FAO's mandate from fisheries to forestry and from agriculture to financial, legal and procedural matters, what the Council Sessions are asked to consider it is not actually always possible for a single delegate to do them justice.

My delegation, as do a number of others, tries to bring in specialists or people who have a particular interest in a specific topic for that item on the agenda. These individuals often themselves have extremely hectic and busy schedules and cannot be expected to wait around for their item to crop up. Mr Chairman, I fully appreciate it is essential that the very important topics the Council are asked to consider are given a full airing, and that delegates be allowed to make all the points they want to make on any given matter.

I would however urge all Members of this Council to do their utmost to make sure that the debates are kept to the timetable. I would also urge that the Secretariat ensure, whenever and wherever possible, that items are completed by the end of the day shown on the agenda. I hope, Mr Chairman, my intervention is not misinterpreted or misunderstood by either the Membership or the Secretariat. We, the Membership, must exercise a degree of self-discipline on this. If we, the Membership, cannot exercise this self-discipline, it may be necessary to have this discipline imposed upon us.

If I may, and again I cite the example of UNICEF, the Executive Board of UNICEF has imposed on itself a speaking time limit. This ensures that we all, the Membership and the Secretariat, say what we have to say as concisely as is possible in the time available. It also ensures we address the matters of substance. Mr Chairman, the time limit on interventions may not be the answer for our Organization but I think unless we, the Membership, can exercise this self-discipline there may be no alternative.

In closing, Mr Chairman, I would like to support the intervention just made by my colleague from the United States regarding the TFAP item.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie très vivement de l'appui inconditionnel que vous donnez au Président en lui confirmant ses pouvoirs et en souhaitant que l'on ne répète pas ce qui a déjà été dit, ce qui se produit, hélas, très souvent. J'ai déjà entendu un certain nombre de répétitions. Il faudrait peut-être que certaines personnes qui ont des relations privilégiées puissent se concerter de façon à parler au nom d'un certain nombre de délégations. Il faut éviter les répétitions et, si cela s'avère nécessaire, je proposerai une limitation du temps de parole parce qu'il me semble judicieux d'éviter de très longs discours lorsque l'on peut dire ce que l'on a à dire en quelques minutes, sans émettre une série de considérations qui n'ont qu'un rapport éloigné avec l'objet en discussion.

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** I shall try not to be repetitive. I would like to come back to the proposal made by the United States to shift the consideration of Item 12 to the morning of Friday 13. As per the proposal, there is a natural correspondence between Item 14.1 and Item 11, which I think usefully could be treated together. However, there is before us a more important proposal from the Director-General on the question of TFAP. I think we recall at the last Session of the ad hoc Committee on TFAP that our conversation did not improve in content and objectivity as the evening wore on. It would be preferable if we were to give sufficient time, including if necessary an evening session, fully to debate this question.

I would strongly support the proposal made by the United States for consideration of this issue beginning on the morning of November 13.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie beaucoup de votre suggestion. En ce qui me concerne, je pense que la suggestion du représentant du Royaume-Uni est pertinente en ce sens qu'il a demandé que l'on ne modifie pas le calendrier compte tenu du fait que des spécialistes devaient être envoyés pour suivre l'examen de différents points de l'ordre du jour. Il ne faudrait pas créer un précédent en modifiant dès à présent le calendrier de l'ordre du jour, étant entendu que le point 14 de l'ordre du jour (Situation financière de l'Organisation) ne devrait pas entraîner de longues discussions car il s'agit simplement d'une analyse de la situation telle qu'elle se présente. Je crois que l'on peut être très bref dans l'examen de la situation financière de l'Organisation et qu'il n'est pas indispensable d'avoir un long débat à ce sujet.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** Friday 13 is considered in my country a bad day, one on which it is best not to work!

I would appreciate your spending a lot of time on that subject on that day. I support in principle the proposal of the United States but, with your explanation, I can deal very quickly with Item 14.1. On the other hand, I know the financial situation of FAO is very good, so we can start the second week on an optimistic note.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Pido la palabra, Sr. Presidente, para un punto de orden.

Hemos perdido mucho tiempo con esta discusión. Los delegados que hablan de disciplina y de limitar las intervenciones para ganar tiempo, creo que están dando el mal ejemplo de demorar demasiado el comienzo de esta reunión. Por consiguiente, pido al Presidente que ajuste la asamblea a la disciplina del Reglamento.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que usted, Sra. Embajadora de Venezuela, tiene toda la razón.

**Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic) :** The proposal that Items 12 and 13 be dealt with on Monday morning is what I wanted to ask about but I think we can deal with them on Friday morning now.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que vous avez raison. Pour apaiser le représentant des Pays-Bas, je dirai que, si la discussion commence le vendredi 13, elle se terminera peut-être le samedi 14 au matin avec d'heureuses conclusions. Je suis convaincu que nous arriverons à de très bonnes conclusions.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** I regret very much having to continue to take the time of this meeting on this issue but I believe enough time had been programmed adequately in the day of Friday 13. It could have been achieved and if there had been consultation with Member States, we would not already be discussing or envisioning an all-night long discussion on TFAP and the forestry issues which will inevitably be the case. My suggestion was made for efficiency. My suggestion to combine Items 11 and 14 is completely logical. They are closely and intimately related. Statements could be made related to those topics. I stand by my original suggestion.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie beaucoup de votre suggestion. Je vais vous faire une confidence: J'ai eu l'occasion, à Montevideo, lors de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, de rencontrer le représentant des Etats-Unis qui m'a posé la question. Je lui ai soumis, à ce moment-là, le projet de calendrier. Je crois même lui avoir donné une photocopie ou un exemplaire du document indiquant que le PAFT serait discuté le vendredi 13, et il m'a dit qu'il allait immédiatement en référer à ses autorités à Washington. Je crois que le problème a été suffisamment clarifié. J'ai remis ce document en temps utile. Maintenant, vous pouvez reprendre la parole, mais, en ce qui concerne le PAFT, après avoir entendu toutes les suggestions qui ont été faites, je crois que nous pourrions tirer les conclusions.

Je voudrais savoir si vous estimez qu'il s'agit d'un véritable point d'ordre. Pourriez-vous prendre la parole sur le point précis que vous désirez soulever?

**Ms Me linda KIMBLE (United States of America):** This is not really a Point of Order but I would like to say that I find this discussion exactly the problem with FAO, the problem of why we do not achieve what this Organization desperately needs to achieve.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous avoue que je ne comprends pas du tout ce que vous voulez dire.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** L'ouverture de cette session du Conseil devait se faire à 10 heures. Je constate qu'il est passé onze heures et que nous assistons, depuis que nous sommes dans la salle, à une sorte de jeu de ping-pong entre la Présidence et un certain nombre de membres du Conseil. Beaucoup de membres du Conseil sont plus ou moins perdus parce qu'il s'est engagé un dialogue auquel nous ne comprenons pas grand-chose.

Je constate, en lisant les documents, que nous en sommes à la cent deuxième session du Conseil, ce qui veut dire qu'il y a déjà eu des sessions avant celle-là et que, par le passé, nous avons eu l'occasion de participer à ces sessions du Conseil et nous avons toujours été suffisamment responsables et disciplinés au cours de ces sessions. Je crois donc qu'il faut faire confiance aux membres du Conseil pour le respect du temps qui leur est imparti pour traiter de questions parfois nombreuses et complexes.

C'est pour cela que je ne comprends pas que ceux qui réclament une certaine souplesse demandent tout à coup qu'il y ait une rigueur outrancière. C'est vraiment contradictoire.

Je crois qu'il faudrait mettre fin à ce débat qui a commencé depuis un certain temps. Ce faisant, je suggère que le Bureau étudie les différentes modifications qui ont été proposées afin d'être en mesure, cet après-midi, compte tenu des observations qui ont été faites, de nous dire ce qu'il sera possible de modifier, pour que nous puissions aller de l'avant. Nous ne pouvons pas continuer de discuter comme nous le faisons actuellement. Il faudra, à un moment donné, que nous commencions nos travaux. Voilà ce que je voulais dire.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie très vivement. De toute façon, nous discutons toujours en temps et lieu des différents points de l'ordre du jour. Un calendrier nous a été soumis. Je crois que tout le monde a eu l'occasion d'exprimer son point de vue. Il ne s'agit pas d'une partie de ping-pong parce que je ne me sens pas partenaire de ce jeu. J'ai écouté les différentes interventions et je crois que les avis sont partagés. En réalité, le problème qui a été soulevé est un problème totalement faux pour la simple raison que le point 14 de l'ordre du jour (Situation financière de l'Organisation) ne peut pas provoquer un très long débat compte tenu du fait que des contributions importantes ont été payées et que la situation financière de l'Organisation se présente maintenant de façon bien meilleure par rapport à la situation antérieure.

Je crois donc que la discussion sur ce point sera relativement brève. Il est clair que cela vous appartient, mais la discussion du point 14 de l'ordre du jour ne devrait pas demander beaucoup de temps. Nous veillerons à commencer



très tôt et nous pourrions peut-être aborder les points de l'après-midi dès le matin.

Nous en avons terminé avec l'examen du calendrier provisoire. Nous annexons le document CL 102/INF/19, qui est la Déclaration de compétences et droit de vote présentée par la Communauté économique européenne et ses Etats Membres. J'ai déjà eu l'occasion de faire les remarques qui s'imposaient à propos de la présentation de cette Déclaration de compétences. S'il n'y a pas d'autres observations, je proposerai de passer au point 2 de l'ordre du jour: Election de trois Vice-Présidents. Le mandat des trois Vice-Présidents qui ont été élus lors de la session précédente vient à expiration.

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 los miembros del Comité de Redacción

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela):** En mi carácter de Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, y por acuerdo de este Grupo, me permito presentar a la consideración para una Vicepresidencia, al delegado de México, Ricardo Velázquez.

**Geoffrey Lee MILLER (Australia):** It is a privilege and great pleasure for me to nominate Dr M.S. Gill, the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in India, as a Vice-Chairman. Through his intellectual leadership and competence as an administrator he has made a great contribution to his country's agricultural and rural development and would make an excellent Vice-Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons entendu une proposition concernant le premier des Vice-Présidents. Cette proposition émane de la représentante du Venezuela, Mme. Mercedes Fermin-Gómez, qui a proposé comme Vice-Président le représentant du Mexique, Don Ricardo. Y a-t-il d'autres personnes qui désirent prendre la parole au sujet de l'élection du représentant du Mexique à la première Vice-Présidence?

**Adel CORTAS (Liban) (Langue originale arabe) :** La délégation de mon pays appuie la proposition de l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela pour l'élection du représentant du Mexique en tant que Vice-Président.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La Sra. Embajadora de Venezuela ha propuesto como Vicepresidente al Sr. Embajador de Estados Unidos de México.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Lo hice, Sr. Presidente, en mi condición de Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, porque su candidatura fue aprobada en nuestro Grupo y fue propuesta así para este Consejo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Al Excmo. Sr. Francisco Javier Alejo López. ¿Es así?

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** I would like to support the nomination of Dr Gill as Vice-Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements Aplausos

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous en sommes toujours au premier Vice-Président. S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques, je déclare élu premier Vice-Président le représentant permanent des Etats-Unis du Mexique Don Francisco Javier Alejo Lopez. Je vous propose de l'applaudir bien chaleureusement.

Nous allons procéder à l'élection du second Vice-Président. L'Australie a proposé le nom de Son Excellence M.S. Gill, Secrétaire permanent du Ministère de l'agriculture de l'Inde. La proposition de l'Australie a été appuyée par le Bangladesh. Y-a-t-il d'autres remarques?

**Bandar EL-SHALHOUB (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic) :** For the post of "Second Vice-Chairman" I should like to propose the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Permanent Representative to FAO.

**LE PRESIDENT:** J'ai entendu la proposition du représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite mais nous en sommes toujours à l'élection du second Vice-Président. La candidature de Son Excellence M.S. Gill, Secrétaire permanent de l'agriculture de l'Inde, a été proposée par l'Australie et appuyée par le Bangladesh. Je vous propose de l'applaudir.

Nous allons passer maintenant à l'élection du troisième Vice-Président. Le représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite a présenté la candidature de Son Excellence Zine El Abidine Sebti, du Royaume du Maroc. Je suis particulièrement heureux de saluer sa présence parmi nous et de l'avoir comme Vice-Président. J'ai le grand plaisir et même l'honneur de connaître le représentant du Maroc depuis de longues années, nous sommes souvent rencontrés à Bruxelles. Je voudrais savoir si d'autres pays souhaitent intervenir pour appuyer cette candidature.

**Mrs MARIA GÁLVöLGYI (Hungary) :** My delegation second the nomination made by Saudi Arabia of His Excellency Zine El Abidine Sebti of Morocco as Vice-Chairman of the present Council meeting.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous propose d'applaudir très chaleureusement l'Ambassadeur Sebti, représentant permanent du Maroc auprès de la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements Aplausos

Je voudrais dire très clairement qu'il n'y a pas de hiérarchie dans l'ordre des Vice-Présidents. Il y a trois Vice-Présidents qui m'assisteront, bien sûr, de manière très efficace dans les travaux de cette importante session du Conseil. Je tiens à les féliciter très chaleureusement et à les remercier d'avoir accepté cette charge importante.

Nous allons passer maintenant à l'élection du Président du Comité de rédaction et des membres de ce Comité. Mais je ne sais pas si le Conseil est prêt à procéder à cette élection. Je crois que des discussions sont toujours en cours entre le Groupe des 77 et celui de l'OCDE. Je proposerai dès lors de reporter quelque peu la décision relative à l'élection des membres du Comité de rédaction jusqu'au moment où le problème sera mûr. J'espère qu'il le sera dans un proche avenir et que, cet après-midi ou, au plus tard, demain matin, nous pourrions prendre la décision qui s'impose.

Je voudrais faire remarquer que traditionnellement le nombre des membres n'a jamais été limité, mais nous avons toujours tenu à ce que les sept régions de la FAO puissent être équitablement représentées. Les sept régions sont prévues dans les statuts. Il s'agit de groupes bien établis. Je souhaiterais que cette vieille tradition de représentation des différentes régions soit respectée lorsque des propositions nous seront faites.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** Would you be so kind as to consider also the possibility of having a small group consisting of a Rapporteur with perhaps two colleagues from each side? It would be nice for this meeting to have that experience.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je ne comprends pas le but de cette intervention. Nous délibérerons quand des propositions nous seront faites. Je dis que ce point est post-posé parce qu'il n'y a pas d'accord. Si vous avez d'autres propositions à faire, faites-les au sein des différentes réunions qui auront lieu, avant de me faire une proposition. A ce stade, je ne suis saisi d'aucune proposition.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

21. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:

21. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:

21. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

21.3. Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions

21.3. Invitations à participer à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des Etats non membres

21.3. Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO

Ce point de l'ordre du jour est inscrit ce matin afin de saisir le Conseil de la demande qui a été adressée à M. le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, par la Fédération de Croatie pour assister à la présente session du Conseil en qualité d'observateur. M. le Directeur général demande dès lors au Conseil

d'approuver la participation de la Fédération de Croatie, en qualité d'observateur, à la présente session. Est-ce qu'il y a des objections?...

Puisqu'il n'y a pas d'objections, il en sera ainsi.

Le document du Secrétariat CL 102/INF/8 fait mention d'invitations qui ont été adressées, sur leur requête, à la République azerbaïdjanaise, à la République de Croatie, aux Iles Marshall, à la Slovénie et à l'Ukraine afin que ces pays puissent participer, en qualité d'observateurs, à d'autres réunions de la FAO. Ces requêtes nous sont parvenues après la 101ème Session du Conseil qui s'est tenue le 28 novembre 1991. Le Directeur général en informe le Conseil et lui fait part, dans le document dont référence, de la contribution apportée par ces pays aux diverses réunions mentionnées dans le document CL 102/INF/8.

S'il n'y a pas de remarques, ces pays sont admis en qualité d'observateurs.

21.5 Applications for Membership in the Organization

21.5 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation

21.5 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización

Dans ce document le Directeur général de la FAO informe le Conseil que lui a été adressée le 10 et le 12 juin 1992, respectivement de la République de Slovénie et de la République de Croatie, une demande pour devenir membre de l'Organisation. Nous prenons acte de ces deux demandes et nous les transmettons à la vingt-septième session de la Conférence qui se tiendra en novembre 1993 de façon à ce que la Conférence, conformément à nos Textes fondamentaux, puisse statuer sur ces deux demandes.

En attendant la décision de la Conférence, et en application de l'article XXV.11 du Règlement général de l'Organisation et des paragraphes B.1, B.2 et B.5 des principes régissant l'octroi du statut d'observateur à notre Organisation, le Conseil est appelé à autoriser le Directeur général à inviter, comme observateurs aux sessions du Conseil ainsi qu'aux réunions régionales et techniques, les pays ayant fait demande d'admission à la FAO qui exprimeraient leur intérêt à y participer.

Est-ce qu'il y a des objections sur ce point?...

Puisqu'il n'y a pas d'objections, il en sera ainsi. Le Conseil autorise dès lors le Directeur général à inviter les Républiques de Croatie et de Slovénie à participer à cette session en qualité d'observateurs.

Nous en avons terminé avec le point 21.5 et nous allons passer à un point particulièrement important de notre ordre du jour, le point 3, qui consiste en la Déclaration du Directeur général de la FAO. Je donne immédiatement la parole à M. Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCIÓN - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

3. Statement by the Director-General

3. Déclaration du Directeur général

3. Declaración del Director General

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Existe-t-il une fatalité assez forte pour déjouer les calculs et les plans des hommes? On serait parfois tenté de le croire. Armé de son intelligence, de son expérience et d'une formidable technologie, l'homme d'aujourd'hui s'efforce de maîtriser la nature et l'histoire, de planifier l'événement, de parer à toute éventualité, d'endiguer les débordements de toute sorte - bref d'imposer sur toute la terre un ordre préconçu. Or, plus il s'y acharne, et plus on dirait que la réalité lui échappe.

Après des années de travail et de négociations pour instaurer à l'échelle mondiale un ordre économique plus juste et plus stable, voici le marasme, les tempêtes monétaires, l'effondrement des économies du tiers monde. Au lieu de la victoire sur la faim et la malnutrition que semblaient promettre plusieurs décennies d'efforts, la famine fauche des milliers de vies chaque jour, tandis que l'insécurité et les carences alimentaires réduisent des millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants à une existence diminuée.

La liste des tragédies connues ou inconnues ne cesse de s'allonger: Afrique, Yougoslavie, débris de l'ancien empire soviétique - mais aussi drames innombrables de la misère et de la faim, de l'ignorance et de la maladie en Amérique latine, en Asie et dans certaines parties du Proche-Orient, sans oublier les poches de pauvreté qui tendent à s'élargir dans le monde industrialisé.

Est-ce une fatalité? Si la communauté internationale et les systèmes qu'elle a mis en place demeurent impuissants devant les situations que je viens d'évoquer, faut-il conclure que nous devons nous résigner à subir passivement les coups de forces qui nous dépassent? Certes, notre puissance a ses limites, mais aucun échec, aucune souffrance n'a jamais conduit l'humanité à renoncer à l'action volontariste et concertée pour rendre le monde plus vivable et pour y promouvoir la paix, l'ordre et la justice. Notre foi dans les Nations Unies, qui incarnent aujourd'hui les aspirations de la communauté internationale, repose sur une conviction simple et forte: s'il ne nous est pas possible de régir le cours des choses, nous pouvons du moins l'infléchir.

Dans ce cas, il faut commencer par nous demander pourquoi nos efforts ont si peu de prise sur le réel. N'est-ce-pas tout simplement parce que nous ne leur consacrons pas assez de moyens et ne les poursuivons pas avec assez de cohérence et d'énergie? A y regarder de plus près, on constate que, devant une situation de crise, tout le monde - individus, entreprises, pouvoirs publics et même la communauté internationale tout entière - tend à réagir au coup par coup, parcimonieusement et par saccades. Quand on se décide à faire quelque chose, c'est bien souvent "trop peu et trop tard", comme disait Churchill. Alors qu'il y aurait tant à faire pour assurer la survie et le bien-être de tous, c'est seulement en cas de guerre que l'on voit des décideurs s'efforcer de devancer l'événement, dépenser sans lésiner, prodiguer les ressources humaines et matérielles, consentir et imposer à leurs peuples des sacrifices cruels et prolongés.

Quoi qu'il en soit, j'ai la fierté de pouvoir dire que la FAO, n'a jamais cédé à la tentation de sous-estimer les périls et qu'elle n'a rien négligé pour

prévoir les situations d'urgence et convaincre ses Etats Membres d'intervenir à temps et avec l'ampleur voulue. Je m'en tiendrai à l'exemple hélas éclatant de la Somalie. A la fin de décembre 1990, les combats qui avaient éclaté à Mogadiscio nous ont forcé à évacuer notre équipe d'alerte rapide. Cela ne nous a pas empêchés de signaler dès février 1991 l'aggravation de la situation alimentaire et de lancer par la suite, pratiquement chaque mois, des signaux qui étaient de véritables appels au secours. Je ne veux pas vous accabler de citations, mais je vous invite à reprendre les rapports de notre Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide. Vous y verrez que, depuis près de deux ans, nous ne cessons de supplier la communauté internationale d'intervenir au plus vite parce que les disponibilités se raréfient, que les récoltes sont plus que compromises, que seule une infime partie des secours parvient aux populations éprouvées et que la famine tue des milliers de nos semblables, surtout parmi les enfants. En outre, je ne compte plus les télégrammes que j'ai envoyés pour adresser aux Etats Membres des demandes précises et répétées.

Informar, alerter, tel est notre devoir, et nous l'avons rempli sans faille. Mais, même si ce travail a permis de mobiliser une importante aide alimentaire, ni la FAO ni le PAM ne disposent de la force d'intervention, du bras armé qui serait malheureusement indispensable pour assurer aujourd'hui l'acheminement des secours. Les organes compétents de la communauté internationale s'efforcent de prendre des mesures pour faire face à de telles circonstances, mais ils se heurtent à mille difficultés.

Sans avoir expressément prévu pareille désagrégation des structures dans une explosion de violence meurtrière, nous avons de longue date envisagé la nécessité de parer très rapidement à des situations exceptionnelles. Depuis près de 10 ans - en fait, depuis avril 1983 -, je ne manque pas une occasion de soumettre au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et au Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire des propositions précises pour augmenter les ressources et améliorer le fonctionnement de la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence, la RAIU. Permettez-moi d'en rappeler les points essentiels: donner à la RAIU le caractère d'une convention ayant force obligatoire; en sus de l'objectif annuel de 500 000 tonnes par an (qui avait été décidé par la septième session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies il y a dix-sept ans en 1975, par le Comité *ad hoc* présidé par l'actuel Ministre de la Coopération de la Hollande) prévoir une réserve immédiatement disponible, dont le volume varierait entre 500 000 et 1 million de tonnes; mettre à la disposition de la RAIU une partie des contributions versées en espèces au titre de la Convention sur l'aide alimentaire; enfin et surtout, prépositionner des stocks, soit dans les pays à risque, soit dans les ports des pays donateurs, afin d'accélérer les livraisons. Je rappelle que la population mondiale en 1975 était de 4 milliards 100 millions, aujourd'hui elle est de 5 milliards 500 millions.

Ces propositions n'ont pu réunir l'assentiment général qui aurait permis d'en entreprendre la réalisation. Je reste cependant persuadé qu'une action résolue dans ce sens nous aurait permis et nous permettrait encore d'être mieux préparés pour affronter les crises avec rapidité, puissance et souplesse, tout en renforçant le caractère multilatéral de la RAIU. Je ferai remarquer que la réserve est administrée par le PAM et non pas par la FAO.

La même volonté de redresser des situations de souffrance et d'injustice a présidé aux interventions que nous multiplions pour obtenir que les prix des produits agricoles exportés par les pays en développement soient réévalués.

Depuis des années, je reviens sur ce thème dans chacune de mes déclarations, tant il me paraît fondamental. Il s'agit essentiellement de produits tropicaux: café, thé, cacao, sucre, banane, coton, riz, etc. En termes réels, ces denrées ne cessent de se déprécier depuis plusieurs décennies, et les recettes qu'elles rapportent ne permettent aux pays producteurs ni de se dégager de l'endettement qui les accable, ni de financer les importations dont ils ont besoin. Pour renverser cette situation, il faudrait que les pays industrialisés acceptent de renoncer à certaines conceptions bien ancrées et de voir plus loin que certains intérêts immédiats. Malgré des négociations poursuivies pendant des années, un tel revirement n'est toujours pas acquis; nous n'en poursuivrons pas moins résolument nos efforts en vue d'un ordre économique et commercial assurant plus de justice et de stabilité. Nous pouvons espérer que la conclusion des négociations multilatérales du GATT - l'"Uruguay Round", comme ont dit - apportera une amélioration sensible en ce qui concerne les prix des produits tropicaux.

A ce propos, je voudrais attirer votre attention sur une question qui, en apparence, n'a rien à voir avec un tel ordre, à savoir celle des contrôles phytosanitaires. En effet, les négociations du GATT ont mis en lumière la nécessité de parer à une possible dérive des réglementations nationales et régionales en la matière, dont l'application risque de donner lieu à des restrictions commerciales non déclarées, mais bien réelles. D'où une recommandation préconisant la transparence dans ce domaine, avec un système de normes, directives et recommandations internationales ayant pour unique but d'empêcher la propagation des ravageurs et des maladies des plantes. En 1991, la Conférence de la FAO, a donné son accord à ma proposition de créer à cette fin, dans le cadre de notre Division de la production végétale et de la protection des plantes, un secrétariat de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux. Celui-ci aura expressément pour but de faciliter le commerce des produits agricoles. A la demande des parties contractantes du GATT, il fournira des avis d'expert en cas de désaccord touchant les incidences des mesures de contrôle phytosanitaire sur les échanges commerciaux. Il lui incombera en outre de veiller, en collaboration avec les organisations phytosanitaires régionales, à l'élaboration de principes, directives et normes dûment harmonisés, et de mettre au point un mécanisme pour leur approbation à l'échelle internationale.

La décision prise conjointement par la FAO et l'OMS d'organiser pour la première fois une grande conférence mondiale sur la nutrition n'a pas d'autre origine que le refus de considérer comme fatales et inéluctables la faim et malnutrition dont souffrent aujourd'hui quelque 780 millions de nos semblables. Identifier la nature et l'ampleur du phénomène, en analyser les causes et tracer ensemble les voies de solutions réalistes, telles sont les tâches que se propose cette conférence, qui va se tenir ici même le mois prochain, et à laquelle je vous convie tous et toutes. L'esprit de solidarité, la clairvoyance et l'énergie dont témoignent les travaux préparatoires nous donnent tout lieu d'espérer que la conférence pourra conduire à des résultats fructueux.

Comme nous le savons tous, un effort de grande envergure est engagé à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, sous l'impulsion du nouveau Secrétaire général, pour restructurer le secteur économique et social dans son ensemble. Entreprise louable, car il s'agit d'assurer à la communauté internationale une meilleure prise sur le réel, et en particulier de permettre une réaction plus efficace aux problèmes du maintien de la paix et du développement international.

En même temps, certains des scénarios envisagés suscitent la perplexité, voire l'inquiétude. Il existe en effet un courant de pensée qui tendrait à réorganiser tout le secteur autour d'un centre de décision unique assurant la planification, la programmation et la surveillance de toutes les activités. Ce centre serait l'ONU elle-même, qui déterminerait ainsi les orientations à donner au système tout entier; sur chaque grand problème - par exemple la pauvreté -, l'Assemblée générale et l'ECOSOC établiraient des programmes concernant l'ensemble des agences et en régenteraient l'exécution.

Séduisante aux yeux de certains, cette conception n'en comporte pas moins de graves dangers, car elle ne tient pas compte des réalités. A l'heure où la planification centrale aboutit à des échecs retentissants, il serait aberrant d'oublier que le système des Nations Unies est, par nature, polycentrique et qu'il faut préserver la spécificité de chaque agence. Chacune d'elles possède une expérience et une expertise irremplaçables. La mise en commun de ces richesses peut engendrer un effet de synergie pour le plus grand bénéfice du développement international; mais, en confinant les institutions spécialisées à des tâches subsidiaires, on nuirait à leur dynamisme, à leur créativité et même, à terme, à leur compétence. En effet, celle-ci se nourrit avant tout de l'interaction fructueuse des responsabilités, de la réflexion et du travail concret.

Ce que je redoute pour notre Organisation, c'est que l'on décide, sans même l'avoir entendue, des réformes qui l'affecteront directement. Ce que je demande, c'est une consultation préalable pour éviter que des décisions qui seraient pratiquement irrévocables soient prises sans que l'Assemblée générale dispose de toutes les données pertinentes.

Cette observation vaut pour toutes les institutions soeurs, mais elle prend un relief particulier dans le cas de la FAO. En effet, notre Organisation a d'ores et déjà entrepris elle-même une réforme exhaustive, qui la met en condition d'exercer une action plus efficace encore que par le passé. Pendant deux ans, nos activités ont été scrutées en profondeur par des experts indépendants. En 1989, la Conférence a approuvé par consensus les conclusions de cette enquête. Depuis lors, et malgré le manque de ressources à cet effet, nous nous appliquons à mettre scrupuleusement en oeuvre les réformes qui ont été préconisées. Non moins scrupuleusement, nous rendons compte à nos organes directeurs de ce que nous faisons dans ce sens.

Je voudrais maintenant évoquer très rapidement la manière dont la FAO est armée pour affronter, aujourd'hui et demain, les tâches difficiles qui lui incombent.

Un mot, pour commencer, de notre situation financière. Même si elle n'apparaît plus vraiment critique, elle demeure tendue. Le contexte où elle s'inscrit s'est assaini parce que la Conférence a adopté le Programme de travail et budget 1992-1993 par consensus et qu'elle a décidé de majorer le Fonds de roulement et d'alimenter le Compte de réserve spécial. Autre élément décisif, notre principal bailleur de fonds a commencé à régler ses arriérés de contributions. Il reste que les versements sont échelonnés de telle manière que nous continuons de survivre au jour le jour. Au début d'octobre, il a fallu avancer au Fonds général la totalité des ressources du Fonds de roulement, soit 23 millions de dollars. Voici quelques jours, nous avons dû consentir à ce même Fonds général une nouvelle avance de 16 millions de dollars prélevés sur le Compte de réserve spécial. Toutefois, j'apprends avec soulagement que les Etats-Unis viennent de régler leur contribution pour 1992.



Comme vous le savez, c'est le Programme de travail et budget qui fixe les moyens dont nous disposons pour agir. Nous sommes déjà très absorbés par la préparation du Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-1995, et je voudrais en toute franchise partager avec vous certaines de mes réflexions sur ce sujet d'une importance capitale.

Le budget de 1992-1993 représente le fruit d'un compromis sans précédent: le Programme de travail a été approuvé dans son intégralité, mais les crédits correspondants ont été amputés de 31 millions de dollars. Par rapport au budget de 1990-1991, cela équivaut à une réduction nette de 4,6 pour cent en termes réels. Il est vrai qu'en se prononçant pour cette solution la Conférence a souligné dans son rapport qu'elle "devrait être considérée comme une mesure exceptionnelle, ne constituant pas un précédent [...]".

Je ne me dissimule pas que l'accueil qui sera réservé au prochain Programme de travail et budget ne marquera guère de changement. Je n'ignore pas que les Etats Membres qui financent la majeure partie de notre budget ne souhaitent pas la moindre croissance budgétaire, et je suis très sensible aux difficultés que rencontrent les Etats Membres les plus pauvres et ceux dont l'économie traverse une passe particulièrement difficile.

D'autre part, il est évident que, dans leur grande majorité, les Etats Membres attendent de la FAO qu'elle réponde à leurs besoins. Or, ces besoins ne cessent d'augmenter, non seulement à cause de l'expansion démographique et de la complexité croissante des problèmes de développement, mais aussi en raison de sollicitations nouvelles, comme le montrent bien les résultats de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement.

Il me faudra donc réaliser un tour de force pour présenter, une fois encore, un Programme de travail qui surmonte ces paradoxes et qui permette de réaliser un consensus - c'est-à-dire un document qui atteste la vitalité de nos programmes en conférant à notre action un maximum de pertinence, d'impact et d'efficacité, le tout sans déborder le cadre étroit des limitations budgétaires. En soi, ce n'est pas la présentation du Programme de travail et budget qui importe, ni même son approbation. Le point capital, celui qui est essentiel à la vie de l'Organisation, c'est qu'une fois les programmes approuvés par la Conférence, les Etats Membres assurent les conditions nécessaires à leur mise en oeuvre; cela suppose d'abord qu'ils s'acquittent de leurs contributions en temps voulu.

L'un des facteurs dont je devrai tenir compte est l'élargissement prévisible de la composition de l'Organisation, où les trois Etats baltes sont déjà entrés en 1991. Cinq autres des Etats issus de l'ancienne URSS nous ont adressé, sous une forme ou sous une autre, des demandes de renseignements sur les procédures d'admission. Deux des pays de l'ancienne République fédérative socialiste de Yougoslavie ont demandé leur admission, et un autre nous a demandé des renseignements; rappelons que le siège de cette ancienne République demeure occupé par l'Etat qui comprend aujourd'hui la Serbie, le Monténégro, le Kosovo et la Voïvodine.

Bon nombre de ces pays, mais aussi d'autres Etats de l'Europe centrale et orientale, ont d'énormes besoins d'aide et nous adressent des demandes comparables à celles que nous recevons des pays en développement. Nous manquons cruellement de moyens pour répondre à ces demandes et devons trouver comment obtenir ces moyens sans compromettre notre assistance au tiers monde ni imposer une charge excessive à nos Etats Membres. Au minimum, nous devons

en premier lieu envisager de renforcer notre Bureau régional pour l'Europe, dont les effectifs et les ressources sont actuellement réduits à leur plus simple expression. Pour pouvoir entreprendre des projets substantiels, il nous faut aussi explorer des voies nouvelles.

Ainsi, il est aujourd'hui admis que le secteur privé représente un moteur de développement plus puissant que le secteur public. Sa coopération avec le système des Nations Unies est en train de s'intensifier; en ce qui concerne la FAO, il ne paraît pas exclu que certains partenariats offrent des possibilités intéressantes. J'ai, en conséquence, entrepris d'étudier comment nous pourrions, sans rien aliéner de notre autonomie, engager une certaine coopération avec le secteur privé de l'agro-industrie. Cette étude sera bien entendu menée avec toute la prudence qui s'impose; si elle devait aboutir à des conclusions positives, nous présenterions des propositions précises dans le prochain Programme de travail et budget.

Autre condition de notre efficacité, les locaux dont nous disposons au Siège. Comme vous pouvez le constater de vos yeux, les travaux avancent bien. Nous allons commencer à rapatrier certaines des unités jusqu'ici dispersées, et nous pouvons espérer que la réunification de notre personnel romain dans un seul ensemble de bâtiments sera menée à bien d'ici à la fin de l'exercice. A ce propos, je veux saluer une fois de plus la compréhension et la générosité de notre pays hôte, qui a pris à sa charge le coût des aménagements et des constructions nouvelles. Ce magnifique effort de l'Italie va nous permettre de mieux souder notre équipe et de travailler de façon plus efficace et plus économique. Parallèlement, nous avons entrepris un important travail de modernisation de nos réseaux téléphoniques et informatiques.

Mais notre capacité d'agir se fonde avant tout sur notre personnel, sur les hommes et les femmes qui mettent au service de notre mission les trésors de leur compétence et de leur dévouement, et aussi de leur diversité culturelle et linguistique. A plusieurs reprises déjà, je vous ai fait part de ma préoccupation devant les difficultés croissantes que nous rencontrons pour recruter et conserver au service de l'Organisation les agents d'une haute qualité humaine et professionnelle qui nous sont indispensables. Je vous ai dit combien la dégradation des conditions d'emploi et de rémunération, ainsi que des prestations de retraite, nous ôtait toute compétitivité par rapport à d'autres organisations aussi bien qu'au secteur privé. Les menaces que cette situation fait peser sur l'avenir de nos ressources humaines ne se sont nullement dissipées, bien au contraire.

Je songe en particulier à nos agents des services généraux, qui éprouvent une inquiétude légitime quant à leur situation présente et future. D'une part, en effet, on tend à remettre en question la méthodologie appliquée pour calculer leurs traitements par référence aux rémunérations en vigueur dans le secteur privé. D'autre part, la question de leurs prestations de retraite a fait l'objet de débats très difficiles, tant au Comité des pensions qu'à la Commission de la fonction publique internationale. L'affaire est maintenant entre les mains de la Cinquième Commission de l'Assemblée générale, mais je voudrais préciser que le Comité administratif de coordination a étudié la question et a demandé à l'Assemblée générale de surseoir à une décision sur ces deux points. Quant à moi, je tiens à réaffirmer que je partage l'angoisse de notre personnel et que je continuerai d'appuyer sa cause par tous les moyens possibles.

L'ordre du jour de la présente session est très riche et très chargé. Je n'ai abordé que quelques-uns des nombreux points qu'il comporte, mais vous retrouverez en étudiant chacun d'eux ce qui constitue le fil conducteur de mon intervention d'aujourd'hui: la volonté d'agir méthodiquement pour améliorer la condition humaine, en refusant d'accepter comme une fatalité la faim, la misère, les sous-développement, l'injustice économique, l'épuisement des ressources naturelles, la dégradation de l'environnement. C'est dans ce contexte que je voudrais poser en conclusion le problème qui me paraît être le plus important pour l'avenir de notre Organisation.

Comme il ressort de tout ce que je viens de dire, nous avons des idées en abondance, et aussi de bons programmes pour leur donner corps. Nous manquons, hélas, des ressources humaines et financières qui seraient nécessaires pour mener nos activités avec la force, la souplesse et la continuité qu'exigent les besoins actuels et prévisibles du monde. Mais le plus important, c'est le rôle que la FAO va pouvoir jouer dans la construction volontariste de l'avenir en tant qu'organisation intergouvernementale véritablement multilatérale, démocratique et indépendante. La bipolarité n'existe plus, mais c'est au pluralisme qu'elle doit céder la place, à une communauté de nations où consensus ne signifie pas droit de veto.

Vous le savez, notre efficacité dépend en grande partie de vous. Nous comptons sur vous pour nous fournir les ressources qu'exige notre mission, mais plus encore pour nous assurer l'indépendance et l'inspiration dynamique sans lesquelles nous ne serions pas crédibles. Nous savons que notre travail continuera de se heurter à des difficultés sans nombre, à des contraintes qui dépassent parfois nos forces; pour autant, cette lucidité ne doit nous conduire ni au découragement ni au renoncement. Le marin n'est pas maître du vent et de la mer; mais, à force de savoir et de volonté, il parvient à les utiliser pour se rendre où il veut.

Je vous souhaite plein succès dans vos travaux.

Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais remercier très cordialement le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, de son importante déclaration. Tout ce qui a été dit, en effet, mérite d'être étudié et beaucoup des thèmes qui ont été abordés dans la déclaration du Directeur général serviront lors de la discussion des très nombreux points de notre ordre du jour.

Nous avons épuisé l'ordre du jour de cette matinée du lundi 9 novembre. Je crois que les recommandations qui ont été faites concernant la brièveté des interventions sont particulièrement importantes car notre ordre du jour est chargé. Dès cet après-midi, nous aborderons le point 4 de l'ordre du jour: Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1992. Ce point couvre l'ensemble des matières dont s'occupe l'Organisation: à la fois le secteur de l'agriculture, le secteur de la pêche, le secteur de la forêt. Il est clair qu'un certain nombre de problèmes spécifiques seront examinés lors

de l'examen de ce point, cet après-midi. Nous aurons une vue générale de l'activité de notre Organisation dans le monde. Il est important que les exposés soient très synthétiques. Il ne me reste qu'à vous souhaiter bon appétit et nous reprendrons nos travaux à 14 h 30.

The meeting rose at 12.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12 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 102/PV/2

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA  
(9 November 1992)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30

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

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas

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

- I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)
2. Election of three Vice-Chairmen, and designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (continued)
2. Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)
2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y de los miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais porter à la connaissance des honorables membres du Conseil que la composition du Comité de rédaction a beaucoup progressé et que très vraisemblablement nous pourrions avoir la composition complète de ce Comité demain matin à 9 h 30. Je porterai donc, à l'ouverture de session, à votre connaissance la composition du Comité de rédaction qui pourra tenir sa première réunion dans un délai très proche.

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION
4. State of Food and Agriculture 1992
4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. 1992
4. El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación. 1992

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons maintenant examiner le point de notre ordre du jour qui nous est soumis: la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture pour 1992 (CL 102; CL 102/2 Sup.1; CL 102/2 Sup. 1-Corr. 1) il s'agit uniquement d'un graphique inséré après le paragraphe 41.

Le document qui est soumis à l'attention du Conseil couvre la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture ainsi que la situation par région.

Je demanderai à M. H.W. Hjort de bien vouloir introduire le sujet.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr Chairman, distinguished Members and Observers, I have the pleasure to introduce the documents to which the Chairman has just referred on the State of Food and Agriculture. I shall follow the format of the main document, addressing first the overall economic environment and then the state of food and agriculture.

The long awaited surge in the global economy remains to be seen. There will be a small net increase in the production of goods and services for the world as a whole, following a year when the world stood still in economic terms. However, the increase will be smaller than expected earlier, and at around 1 percent too slow to create jobs for all those who need work. A consequence is abnormally slow growth in the demand for food and agricultural products.

For years the world economy has been led by the Asia and the Pacific region, this year it is being joined by the Near East and, to a lesser extent the

Latin American and the Caribbean economies. Drought and civil strife have dampened economic growth prospects in Africa, while the countries of Eastern Europe continue to seek the path to resumed growth in output. Output continues to decline in the former Yugoslavia and the CIS, while its growth in the industrialized countries will be slower than indicated in the document before you.

The world economy is forecast to grow at a significantly higher pace in 1993, but at around 3 percent not as rapidly as previously foreseen. Nevertheless, an acceleration in the world economy will stimulate demand for food and agricultural products.

The most recent data indicate that the world as a whole produced a slightly smaller quantity of agricultural products in 1991 than in 1990. World fish production declined by just over 3 percent in 1990, and in 1991 world crop production declined by about 1 percent while world roundwood production declined slightly. World livestock production increased but also by less than the growth in world population in 1991.

An increase in world production of agricultural products is essentially assured for 1992, but unless crop and livestock production turns out to be well above the preliminary estimate - an increase of around 1 percent - this will be another year when the rate of growth in production failed to match the rate of growth in population.

Mr Chairman, drought and/or civil strife have led to severe food supply/demand imbalances in large parts of southern and eastern Africa, in some areas of Europe and elsewhere. These situations, called to the attention of the community of interest early on by FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System, and documented through joint FAO/WFP world food need assessment missions, have led to an unprecedented number of appeals for emergency assistance.

The donors, the intergovernmental and non-governmental relief and rehabilitation organizations, and the affected countries themselves deserve to be complimented for the food and non-food items they have managed to provide and/or distribute. On the other hand, it is regrettable that too often the food has come too late to prevent death and that too few seeds and hand tools have been made available to producers who had hoped to produce more food in the next season. It also is distressing to note that the quantity that will be provided in response to the outstanding appeals will not be enough to prevent extreme hunger, and even further deaths from starvation. In this connection, I remind the Council of the Director-General's proposals of this morning for reinforcing the International Emergency Food Reserve.

The Director-General has mentioned the situation in Somalia, where widespread deaths from starvation continue despite the intensification of relief efforts and the steps taken towards enhanced security. In Mozambique famine is reported in four out of ten provinces. Food shortages also persist in parts of the Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, several southern African countries, as well as in Iraq, Afghanistan, the former Yugoslavia, parts of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Haiti.

Mr Chairman, I wish to call to the Council's attention the limited donor support for seeds, hand tools and other inputs, which are essential to enhanced agricultural production in the affected countries. Our experience

with the appeal and implementation process leads to the conclusion that FAO must stand ready to help the affected countries document their agricultural rehabilitation needs more carefully and comprehensively, and help obtain the funds for the purchase and distribution of the inputs.

We report in the supplement that the growth in trade of agricultural products in 1991 was down sharply from the prior year, and well below the long-term trend. The change was especially large with respect to fishery products, but the pattern was the same - much slower growth - for crop, livestock and forestry products. It is too early to make a firm forecast for 1992, but the low level of export prices for agricultural commodities, large export subsidies on some commodities, slow growth in the world economy and the threat of a trade war cast doubt upon the views of the optimists.

Agricultural commodity prices in international markets declined sharply relative to prices for manufactures and crude petroleum during the 1980s. The magnitude of the decline is illustrated by asking what export earnings to developing countries would have been if the relationships between export prices that obtained during 1979-81 had been maintained in 1989-91. The answer is they would have been about 30 percent (US\$254 billion) higher.

There are many reasons for the relative decline in the prices of agricultural commodities in international markets, among them the abnormally high export prices for some commodities a decade ago, the strong incentives to produce in some of the richer countries and the large export subsidies they pay on some commodities, the necessity for highly indebted countries to earn more from exports than they expend for imports in order to service debt, the depressed demand for food and agricultural products due to structural adjustment measures, the removal or lowering of the social security safety net in many countries and, more generally, slow world economic growth.

There are indications that the world economy will soon begin to grow faster, the transition to greater reliance on markets and private agents continues, and some countries are overcoming their structural problems. But many countries continue to face severe debt service burdens, and the prospects for an early removal of export subsidies or an early return of strong safety nets under the poor are not good.

I look forward to the comments of the Council on the matters covered in the documents before you. I also would appreciate having the suggestions of the Council on how to reduce the length of these documents in the future.

**Guillermo JIMENEZ MORALES (México):** Sr. Antoine Saintraint, Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Dr. Edouard Saouma, Director General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, señores Ministros y representantes de países miembros; señores observadores e invitados especiales; señoras y señores: Es para mí un honor transmitir a ustedes un cordial saludo del Presidente de México, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, quien me ha encomendado manifestarles la disposición del Gobierno de mi país, para contribuir al logro de los objetivos de esta reunión.

El 102º periodo de sesiones del Consejo de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, importante foro para el diálogo y el fomento a la colaboración multilateral, es marco propicio para analizar los temas fundamentales de la amplia agenda sobre la agricultura y la



alimentación, particularmente ante la dinámica de dos grandes eventos: la cumbre de Río sobre medio ambiente y desarrollo y la Conferencia Mundial sobre la Nutrición que se celebrará aquí mismo el próximo mes. Permitirá, asimismo, evaluar los resultados de un año de actividades y esfuerzos solidarios de nuestra Organización y de sus países miembros, todo lo cual dará las pautas y criterios para la conformación del programa bianual y el de mediano plazo para que nuestra Organización pueda cumplir con los objetivos, políticas y programas en favor de la seguridad alimentaria, alivio a la pobreza extrema y contribuir al desarrollo y transferencia tecnológica objetivos que atañen a todos, porque en ellos se afincan las bases para el desarrollo humano con paz, libertad y justicia.

Esta sesión del Consejo es una gran oportunidad para establecer compromisos conjuntos sobre el papel que debe desempeñar la pesca ante los reclamos de alimentación, empleo e ingresos de una población mundial en constante aumento, principalmente en las naciones de menor desarrollo económico y por lo tanto acordarle un mayor presupuesto.

Alcanzar metas de mayor productividad para atender la demanda alimentaria de la población mundial, requiere de la cooperación y solidaridad internacional. En este sentido, la presencia y actuación de la FAO contribuye decisivamente al logro de estos objetivos estratégicos.

Este año se cumple una década que la comunidad internacional suscribió la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar. Este nuevo marco normativo internacional de los mares, que posibilitó el establecimiento generalizado del régimen de la zona económica exclusiva, ha significado para los países ribereños el derecho de ejercer soberanía sobre los recursos pesqueros localizados en esa franja oceánica.

Con la ampliación de las zonas jurisdiccionales de las naciones costeras, se ha propiciado el aumento de su producción pesquera y con ello, contribuido a satisfacer las necesidades de alimentación, con productos provenientes del mar.

A partir de entonces, hemos percibido transformaciones importantes en el desenvolvimiento de la actividad pesquera mundial; se han integrado nuevos países y regiones a la explotación y aprovechamiento de recursos, desarrollado nuevos métodos y equipos de pesca, fortalecido nuevas pesquerías y, sobre todo, se ha hecho posible destinar volúmenes crecientes hacia la satisfacción de las necesidades alimentarias.

La celebración de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero en 1984, convocada por la FAO, ha abierto la posibilidad a través de la estrategia y los programas de acción emanados de la misma, de ofrecer a los países interesados en promover el fortalecimiento de la actividad pesquera, instrumentos para alcanzar un mejor aprovechamiento y explotación de sus recursos.

Aun con todos estos cambios y propósitos, podemos aseverar que la pesca no ha logrado proporcionar los beneficios esperados del nuevo orden. La producción pesquera mundial se aproxima a los 100 millones de toneladas, estimados como límite disponible de los recursos pesqueros tradicionales y, aunque cerca de 70 millones son destinados al consumo humano directo, persisten sistemas y prácticas que han mantenido a gran parte de países productores, como abastecedores de productos con poco valor agregado.

De la misma manera, la acuicultura que es la alternativa promisorio para multiplicar la producción pesquera y con ello los beneficios en alimentos, empleos, ampliación del comercio pesquero y el bienestar social, no ha alcanzado el nivel de impulso para consolidar su desarrollo en la mayoría de los países del orbe.

El mundo experimenta importantes transformaciones que se expresan en la distensión y en la globalización de las relaciones y los procesos económicos internacionales. Sin embargo, esta nueva etapa no ha rendido aún los beneficios deseables, de un progreso equilibrado.

A pesar de la apertura y desregulación de las actividades productivas para propiciar un mejor intercambio comercial, persisten aún en el mundo tendencias proteccionistas que obstaculizan su logro.

En la pesca, estos obstáculos constituyen limitaciones para lograr el pleno aprovechamiento de los recursos a que dio acceso regulado el nuevo derecho del mar.

Por otra parte, subsisten presiones sobre el potencial pesquero en recursos de alto valor comercial, particularmente en los que se destinan a la exportación.

Esta situación, agravada por el difícil acceso a la tecnología, a procesos productivos innovadores y a recursos financieros suficientes, así como por problemas de políticas comerciales restrictivas, que a menudo pretenden vincular la posibilidad de la comercialización al acceso directo a los recursos pesqueros, disminuye los alcances que se pueden derivar del nuevo derecho del mar.

Sumado a ello, en los últimos años la actividad pesquera enfrenta nuevos retos, ya que en ocasiones se adoptan actitudes proteccionistas sin sustento en evidencia científica, que buscan imponer esquemas de ordenación no siempre apropiados y llegan, incluso, a constituirse en barreras injustificadas para el comercio, al amparo de una supuesta preocupación por los aspectos relacionados con el medio ambiente.

En el desarrollo pesquero debemos reconocer el principio de que la explotación sostenida de los recursos pesqueros debe estar en armonía con la protección y conservación de las especies marinas y su medio ambiente.

La pesca reclama acciones que la fomenten bajo la premisa de aplicar el esfuerzo pesquero con responsabilidad, para contribuir a satisfacer la demanda de alimentos y al logro de metas para el desarrollo económico en general.

Por ello, en el 19 a período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca de la FAO, celebrado en abril de 1991, al abordarse el tema del medio ambiente y la sostenibilidad de la pesca, nuestro país identificándose plenamente con la problemática y con el papel que nuestra Organización podía desempeñar en ella, suscribió la iniciativa encaminada a la realización de una conferencia internacional y a la elaboración de un código de conducta sobre la pesca responsable.

En ese ámbito y ante la favorable coyuntura internacional, que ofrecía la cumbre de Río, el Gobierno de México decidió convocar en mi país en mayo pasado y con el invaluable apoyo de la FAO - a quien expresamos nuestro mayor

reconocimiento -, la celebración de la Conferencia Internacional de Pesca Responsable.

Por conjuntar intereses y expectativas en torno al tema, la conferencia tuvo una gran aceptación por parte de la comunidad internacional, ya que en ella se contó con representantes de 66 países pesqueros destacando la presencia de 28 ministros y autoridades superiores de pesca, así como de numerosas organizaciones gubernamentales y no gubernamentales que después de un amplio debate decidieron y a través de su trabajo aprobaron, la Declaración de Cancún.

En ella se contienen una serie de importantes acuerdos entre los que destacan: solicitar al Director General de la FAO la elaboración de un código de conducta sobre pesca responsable; al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas recomendar que la próxima década sea declarada como "El decenio para la pesca responsable"; y, a los Estados, apoyar la celebración de una reunión internacional sobre la pesca en alta mar.

La declaración recomienda a los países, acciones encaminadas a:

Adoptar medidas efectivas de ordenación y planificación, promotoras del mantenimiento de la calidad, cantidad, diversidad y disponibilidad de los recursos pesqueros, con miras a asegurar el abastecimiento para alimentar a las poblaciones actuales y futuras.

Mejorar el conocimiento y aprovechamiento biológico y económico de las poblaciones de los recursos pesqueros.

Revisar, desarrollar y diseñar los equipos y métodos de pesca, que eviten el impacto sobre las poblaciones y medio ambiente marino y reduzcan la captura de especies no deseadas.

Colaborar para asegurar la pesca responsable en todos los ámbitos.

Impedir las prácticas de cambio de pabellón como un medio para evadir el cumplimiento de las medidas de ordenación en alta mar.

Evitar que la conservación ambiental sea un pretexto para restringir el comercio internacional.

Lograr que la aplicación de medidas de protección ecológica se sustenten en acuerdos multilaterales.

Establecer esquemas para facilitar y promover la cooperación internacional, la transferencia de tecnología y el intercambio de información.

Incluir en la cooperación internacional el apoyo financiero requerido por los países en desarrollo.

Los compromisos asumidos en la Conferencia Internacional de Pesca Responsable, hacen evidente la importancia de la colaboración internacional con el propósito de obtener resultados permanentes y generales en lo que toca a la ecología, la biodiversidad, y poner al alcance de todas las naciones las tecnologías adecuadas para el desarrollo sostenible de la pesca. Los trabajos que se realizan en torno a la conservación y protección de los recursos

pesqueros del mar y su medio ambiente, deben ser respaldados con esfuerzos nacionales, así como por acciones concertadas multilateralmente.

Con este propósito el Gobierno de México introdujo recientemente cambios importantes en su legislación pesquera a fin de adecuar la normatividad a las demandas que imponen las nuevas circunstancias. Propició los cambios para que la administración de las pesquerías logre una mayor racionalidad en la explotación de los recursos, fomentando la actividad productiva en un marco de pesca responsable.

En la pasada Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Desarrollo y Medio Ambiente, celebrada en Río de Janeiro, Brasil, la comunidad internacional dio uno de los avances más significativos en el análisis y formulación de iniciativas orientadas al logro del desarrollo económico, en concordancia con demandas de un mayor y urgente cuidado de nuestro entorno ecológico. Se convino en establecer programas para el aprovechamiento de los recursos marinos bajo jurisdicción nacional y el desarrollo de acciones que fortalezcan la colaboración y coordinación internacional y regional.

En este contexto, a nombre del Gobierno de México como anfitrión de la Conferencia de Cancún y con la honrosa representación que los países participantes me otorgaron como Presidente de la misma, acudo ante este honorable Consejo a fin de que como órgano de gobierno de nuestra Organización, traduzca el mandato, al Sr. Director General, la voluntad de los países firmantes de la Declaración a fin de elaborar e iniciar las concertaciones para la aprobación e instrumentación del Código de Conducta sobre Pesca Responsable.

Nos complace conocer que la Consulta técnica sobre pesca de alta mar celebrada en septiembre en el seno de la FAO le ha merecido un amplio consenso, señalando ya un gran número de elementos que a juicio de los gobiernos miembros debe contener el Código, lo cual, Sr. Presidente, seguramente facilitará la decisión que atentamente estamos solicitando.

Señores delegados, en este foro, órgano de gobierno de nuestra Organización cuyo mandato constitucional es el de apoyar el desarrollo de la alimentación y de la agricultura en sentido amplio para asegurar la nutrición y el bienestar de los pueblos, México aboga para que, en un marco multilateral de mutuo entendimiento y común responsabilidad, se propongan acciones encaminadas a la conservación y protección de las especies marinas, con pleno respeto a la soberanía de las naciones y con sustento en evidencias científicas mundialmente aceptadas,

La permanencia de los recursos del mar no admite ya la pretensión de explotaciones mayores a los límites que la propia naturaleza impone. Conforme el ser humano evoluciona en el conocimiento, adquiere más conciencia de que los recursos bajo protección de jurisdicciones nacionales reclaman una responsabilidad comprometida con su aprovechamiento racional y el cuidado de su conservación y del entorno ecológico.

La motivación para alcanzar con urgencia los objetivos prioritarios antes señalados, se encuentra en la agudización del hambre en múltiples regiones, situación que difícilmente podrá ser resuelta desde el círculo vicioso de la desnutrición y el subdesarrollo. Por ello, necesitamos defender y cuidar nuestros recursos pesqueros para asegurar su existencia como fuente de

alimentación; apelar a la conciencia mundial para que atienda al ser humano cuando padece hambre y agresión.

La alternativa para atacar con eficacia estos fenómenos que afectan nuestra propia supervivencia, está aquí, en la voluntad colectiva que representa nuestra Organización, en su capacidad para convocar la solidaridad internacional, promover el diálogo y negociar compromisos más allá de fronteras e intereses. Empeño en que reconocemos la gran labor que su Director General, el Dr. Saouma, ha dedicado.

Nuestro Gobierno apoya la propuesta hecha esta mañana por el Director General de la FAO de reforzar la reserva internacional de alimentos para apoyar a los países en caso de hambruna. Somos todos una sola especie y habitamos un espacio común. Hagamos de esta interacción un ejercicio cabal de responsabilidad.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias Sr. Secretario de Estado de Pesca de México por su intervención tan importante e interesante. Como ustedes saben la reunión de Cancún fue una reunión de gran éxito y el miércoles por la mañana discutiremos más allá de la pesca responsable y de la pesca en alta mar en el punto 6.

**M.S. GILL (India):** Mr Chairman, I am sure that under your leadership we shall be able to deliberate effectively on various development issues and find reasonable solutions.

I am grateful to the Council for electing me a Vice-Chairman today. I assure you, Mr Chairman, of my full support in your endeavours to conduct this session effectively. I congratulate the other two Vice-Chairmen on their election today. I wish to place on record my appreciation for the quality of the document produced by the Secretariat for discussion under Item 4. The document gives a comprehensive global review of the economic environment, food and agriculture supply situation, agricultural trade, food aid and issues pertaining to sustainable agricultural development in the different regions of the world.

It is a matter of great concern that the global economic environment continues to exert an inhibiting influence on food and agriculture. Agricultural production in 1991 declined at the global level for the first time since 1983. Similarly, agricultural production declined in the developing countries from the 1980s' level. Though there are indications of an improvement in the overall economic situation from 1993 onwards - and, as the Deputy Director-General said, we are still looking and hoping for it - the benefits to agricultural growth and trade are likely to be unevenly distributed.

The global food security situation is delicate and under serious stress. Widespread food shortages are affecting vast expanses of eastern and southern Africa, some of which are experiencing critical natural and man-made food emergencies and famine conditions. Reference has repeatedly been made in this Council meeting today, from the Director-General onwards, to horrendous situations in many countries. There are presently several important issues of concern to both the developing as well as the developed world. In most developing countries the net outflow of resources, including those for servicing external debts, imposes a severe constraint on agricultural growth

and access to food for large populations. Efforts to provide relief through compensatory mechanisms have so far offered only partial solutions. The low-income food-deficit countries recorded poor agricultural performance, essentially due to their inability to maintain adequate levels of investment. In these countries gross capital formation declined in 1989-1991 to 28 percent below the average for developing countries. While in the long run we face the task of promoting structural changes to reduce external dependence, the transition is likely to cause food shortages unless food aid and other forms of external assistance are provided to those low-income food-deficit countries in larger measure.

The total commitment of external assistance to agriculture was estimated at US\$14.6 billion in 1990, a decrease by 8.6 percent from that of 1988. As for food aid, developing countries have received about 11.3 million tonnes of cereal food aid in 1991-92, which is well below the level of 13.5 million tonnes reached during the year 1987-88. Food aid for development projects, particularly through the multilateral channels, has also been curtailed on account of its diversion for meeting other emergencies.

The World Food Conference held in 1974 had adopted an annual target of food aid of 10 million tonnes of cereals. However, with the growing population of developing countries, which has increased by 1.1 billion, and due to the developments in the USSR and Eastern Europe, the allocation of food aid to the traditional food aid recipient nations has been threatened. The food aid gap is also widening on account of increasing numbers of emergencies. FAO has assessed the requirement of food aid by the year 2000 at approximately 17 million tonnes. Globally, there is enough food for all. A wide gap, however, exists in the per capita energy dietary supply between the developed and developing regions. I am certain that the International Conference on Nutrition scheduled to be held in Rome early next month will provide specific policy guidelines and action plan to meet the global food and nutritional needs in the coming decades.

For the agricultural export-dependent countries, markets for agricultural products and market stability will be crucial issues in the coming years. It is important that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations is concluded equitably at the earliest. Recognizing the claims of the developing countries with regard to special and preferential treatment in the phasing out of subsidies and the importance of providing increased market access to them, is crucial to ensuring the benefits of trade to the developing world. Against this background, FAO has a special role to play by providing policy advice to developing countries. It is also of common concern to the international community to ensure that the developing countries are adequately assisted by technical and financial support to enable them to improve their agricultural productivity and enhance their capacity to produce more to meet the demand of their increasing populations.

We appreciate FAO's active role in the International Conference on Nutrition, on environment and development and its significant contribution in the preparation of Agenda 21. The response to the challenge of increasing food production to meet the needs of the present generation, while at the same time safeguarding resources for future generations, will no doubt be the dominant criteria for future agricultural growth. However, sustainable agricultural development must necessarily be based on an appreciation of the physical potential of the environment, the availability of resources in specific areas and the requirements of populations living in these regions.

To enable the developing countries to adopt sustainable approaches to agricultural growth, it is necessary to ensure adequate transfer of technology and resources from the developed countries to the less developed ones.

In this context also, FAO will have to function as a bridge between the two groups of countries in providing the required technical assistance, and in ensuring the commitment of financial resources by the industrially-developed countries. The global challenge lies in recognizing the fact that alleviating poverty is and remains, a moral imperative and a prerequisite for environmental sustainability.

During the morning session, we have heard a passionate and inspired appeal by the Director-General focusing his concerns on the problems of hunger, food and development. On a personal note, as one who has worked for long years in the Indian Punjab, which has spear-headed the Green Revolution, and has contributed considerably to achieving food security for the country, and as one who, at another time, spent many years working on the same kind of concerns in Africa, I would like to endorse the need for a greater focus of effort and investment in agriculture and food- and nutrition-related areas of development. I can think of no better agency than FAO to lead and expand this endeavour in this decade. Therefore, we should lend all our energies to forging FAO into an ever more effective instrument for achieving these worthwhile noble goals.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much for your very substantial intervention. I also think that the function of FAO is, and will be in the future, a very important one.

**Sergio A. BARRERA (Philippines):** The Philippine delegation wishes to convey to you, Mr Chairman, our sincere congratulations. We are confident that under your able leadership and wise guidance, the 102nd Session of the FAO Council will achieve its noble objectives.

We should also like to commend the officers and staff of FAO for the excellent documents and facilities made available to the delegations.

I wish to refer to Item 4, The State of Food and Agriculture 1992. The present depressed state of commodity markets and the significant decline in the international trade prices of agricultural products have dealt yet another blow to the already battered economies of many developing countries.

As we are all aware, economic growth in many developing countries is crucially linked to growth in exports. The scarcity of external financing renders it necessary to generate surpluses from trade, particularly agricultural trade, since many developing countries are still predominantly agricultural. Document CL 102/2 notes that the enormous debt burden of developing countries remains unchanged and that the net transfers for developing countries remain negative: a negative US\$3 116 billion in 1992, more than double that of 1990.

The document also points out that the level of trade of both agricultural and non-agricultural products hinges largely on the levels of economic activity in the industrial countries.

We indeed agree, Mr Chairman, that the global economic slowdown is a major factor in the decline of agricultural trade, but we also know it is not the only cause. The situation has been caused by the interaction of the global economic recession associated with restrictive international agricultural policies.

World prices of farm products may have fallen even in the absence of restrictive agricultural policies because of world economic recession. But the crisis of agricultural trade has certainly been aggravated by the restrictive and protective international agricultural policies of many countries, many of which are the industrialized countries.

In spite of the stagnation of domestic and world demand, incentives to agricultural production have continued to be given by certain industrialized countries by way of internal prices significantly above world market prices. The result has been structural surpluses that have to be stockpiled or sold to the world market with the help of export subsidies. In addition, border measures by way of high tariffs, variable levies, quantitative restrictions and phyto-sanitary restrictions for many agricultural products continue to limit access in the major markets.

The combined effect of the border measures, internal support and export subsidies has been to depress the world commodity markets. With the agricultural sectors of the major economies isolated from the fluctuations of the world markets, the burden of adjusting to the fluctuations of import demand has been forced on those traditional exporters and developing countries whose farmers are highly dependent on and are exposed to the full force of world markets.

The sad history of the loss of the world market for sugar for the Philippines and for many other countries is a classic example of the situation created by pernicious agricultural policies.

We agree with the conclusion in paragraph 42 that for developing countries the challenge is two-fold: first, to make the policy and structural adjustments necessary to participate in the distorted global markets of today; and secondly to press for fairer global markets for our products in the future. The Philippines has taken measures to liberalize trade, protect the environment, and deregulate the agricultural sector by lifting price controls and abolishing government monopolies.

We have to diversify our export base, improve our productivity, and expand trade of processed agricultural products. At the same time, we wish to stress that the international community cannot relent in its efforts towards a more just agricultural trading system. Initiatives by the international community and of individual states in this field have not been lacking.

Notable among these initiatives is the UNCTAD Programme for Commodities. Negotiations for Internal Commodity Agreements for ten core commodities and for eight other commodities have been initiated. Negotiations also started for the setting up of a common fund of US\$6 billion to finance the agricultural commodity bodies, but the result was a small portion of envisaged funds which could finance only mini projects.



The ICAS are also all in serious difficulties, and they seem to be unable to influence the price ranges through the buffer stocking arrangements because, inter alia, of insufficient funding.

The Uruguay Round on which high hopes had been placed to liberalize trade now seems about to conclude without significant results for agriculture. The alarming news is that of a potential trade war between the major GATT contracting partners, with all its incalculable consequences.

If the Uruguay Round fails, particularly in negotiations in the agricultural sector, then the movement towards the formation of trade blocs will accelerate: NAFTA, MERCOSUR, CER and AFTA. But the trading blocs favour free trade for members of the trading blocs but not necessarily for those outside the bloc.

If the developing countries are unable to export commodities, they will be exporting their populations and working force to the developed world. The phenomenon of mass migration from Third World countries to industrialized countries has already begun, and it will probably continue to increase.

The FAO Council is in the best position to point out to the international community the dire consequences of the existing unjust trading system on the developing countries, particularly on their food security. The FAO Council should likewise point out the need to address this problem courageously and decisively.

I wish to re-echo the theme voiced by His Excellency Edouard Saouma, the FAO Director-General, which is: "... the will to improve the human condition, and the refusal to accept that hunger, poverty, underdevelopment, economic injustice, depleted natural resources and environmental degradation constitute our allotted fate".

We cannot leave as a legacy - indeed, we cannot leave to generations yet unborn - hunger, poverty, underdevelopment, economic injustice, depleted natural resources and environmental degradation.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Representative of the Philippines for his very interesting intervention. I think that you are right in your very interesting and very important comments.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Sobre este importante tema del programa, Sr. Presidente, a la delegación de Cuba no le es posible hablar de la situación mundial de la agricultura, la alimentación y el comercio, sin hacer principal referencia a nuestro país, país pequeño que bañan las aguas del mar Caribe enclavado en el mismo corazón de América Latina, del llamado Tercer Mundo, de tan sólo 10 millones de habitantes.

Pues, Sr. Presidente, no se puede hablar de alimentación y su seguridad en el mundo, cuando Cuba, uno de los países participantes en este 102º período de sesiones, miembro del Consejo de la FAO, está amenazada a ser estrangulada por hambre y amenazada por una superpotencia al bloquear tanto sus alimentos como sus más indispensables medios de vida, tan sólo por mantener una conducta.

Nuestro pequeño país no agrede ni es amenaza para nadie, a no ser por su ejemplo, pensamiento y conducta, que se podrá o no se podrá estar de acuerdo, pero que nadie puede discutir que defiende principios en un mundo crítico de evidentes claudicaciones y oportunismos.

En estos momentos no nos ocupa hablar sólo de un bloqueo de más de 30 años que Cuba ha tenido que soportar, bloqueo que le ha ocasionado cuantiosos daños y perjuicios alimentarios, así como económicos y sociales, sino el recrudecimiento de ese bloqueo.

Permítanme Sr. Presidente, colegas del Consejo, ilustrarlos sobre esta inexplicable situación.

El 23 de octubre de 1992, en la ciudad de Miami, Florida, el Presidente de Estados Unidos de América, firmó la llamada ley para la democracia en Cuba de 1992, incluida como título XVII en la ley de autorización de gastos para la defensa. Con este paso, el poder ejecutivo norteamericano consumó un hecho sin precedente en la historia de las relaciones internacionales, refrendando y convirtiendo en ley un proyecto aprobado por el Congreso de ese país que no puede ser calificado de otra forma que como aberración jurídica, sin fundamento alguno en el derecho o en las costumbres políticas de naciones civilizadas.

Al adoptar una ley de franca esencia injerencista, en vísperas del tercer milenio, cuando se proclama el fin de la guerra fría, el Gobierno de Estados Unidos de hecho pretende ignorar las formas que rigen el derecho internacional americano desde la década de los años 30 del presente siglo, en que se aceptó como uno de sus principios esenciales el de no intervenir en los asuntos internos de los Estados.

La también llamada Ley o Enmienda Torricelli, no sólo se propone violar la soberanía de Cuba, sino pretende extender a otros países la política y las leyes norteamericanas. En su Sección 1703, párrafo 3, se afirma, en tono amenazante, que es parte de la política norteamericana hacia Cuba, aclarar a otros países que, al determinar sus relaciones con ellos, Estados Unidos tomará en cuenta su disposición a cooperar con tal política. Pero la ley no se limita a esto. En sus secciones 1704 y 1706 se autoriza al Presidente a aplicar sanciones contra aquellas naciones que soberanamente decidan otorgar cualquier tipo de asistencia a Cuba, al tiempo que se prohíbe toda transacción comercial de subsidiarias de empresas norteamericanas en terceros países y la entrada a puertos norteamericanos durante 180 días de toda nave de cualquier bandera que haya recalado en puerto cubano.

Estas y otras medidas propuestas en la Ley, constituyen un claro ejemplo de extensión extraterritorial de las leyes norteamericanas y violan no sólo la Carta de la ONU, sino otros documentos jurídicos internacionales, firmados y ratificados por Estados Unidos, como la Carta de la Organización de Estados Americanos, que en su artículo 16 proscribía el uso de la coerción económica salvo en casos de legítima defensa, o el acuerdo general de aranceles aduaneros y comercio (GATT), que en sus artículos 10 y 13 prohíbe la adopción de restricciones o medidas discriminatorias que obstaculicen el comercio internacional.

Al tomar medidas extraterritoriales de esta envergadura, que han sido universalmente repudiadas y que inevitablemente le han creado dificultades en sus relaciones con terceros países, el Gobierno de Estados Unidos ha

demostrado una vez más su total desprecio por la opinión pública internacional, poniendo su política de hostilidad y agresión contra Cuba por encima del supuesto de interés de mantener relaciones respetuosas con sus principales aliados y amigos.

Las propias autoridades de Estados Unidos han reconocido que este recrudecimiento del bloqueo contra Cuba se hace a partir de las dificultades que la nación cubana enfrenta a causa de la profunda y súbita transformación que han sufrido sus relaciones económicas internacionales debido a la desaparición de la Unión Soviética y a la disolución de la Comunidad de Estados Socialistas. Raras veces en la historia de la humanidad una superpotencia ha actuado con tanto desprecio por las normas de conducta civilizadas, pretendiendo aprovechar, de forma tan grosera y oportunista, los sufrimientos que, por razones ajenas a su voluntad, han caído sobre un pueblo vecino. Tal proceder recuerda los crímenes de la humanidad cometidos durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Cuba no se niega a negociar sus diferencias bilaterales y a normalizar sus relaciones con Estados Unidos, pero lo hará, y repito, única y exclusivamente sobre la base de la igualdad soberana y la no intervención en sus asuntos internos, sin condición previa alguna que lesione su soberanía y su dignidad. Si de imponer condiciones se trata, un elemental sentido de justicia exige el cese de todas las acciones agresivas y hostiles que las autoridades norteamericanas llevan a cabo contra Cuba, de las cuales esta ley es un ejemplo más. La Enmienda Torricelli demuestra que es el Gobierno de Estados Unidos el que se niega a resolver este conflicto por una vía negociada, como corresponde entre estados independientes.

La reacción de distintos gobiernos y de la opinión pública internacional en su conjunto, al repudiar esta ley, constituyen una muestra indudable de que Estados Unidos no está respaldada en su política de bloqueo contra Cuba y un indudable estímulo para la nación cubana en estos tiempos de prueba.

La delegación cubana ante este 102º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, espera que este Consejo y la comunidad internacional comprendan los peligros que encierra tolerar el comportamiento del Gobierno norteamericano en su política de bloqueo contra Cuba e insta a los gobiernos a que den los pasos que estimen convenientes con el objetivo de poner fin a esta ley y a otras medidas del bloqueo contra Cuba, que no tienen precedente ni justificación alguna en el derecho internacional.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais faire remarquer que nous discutons ici de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et qu'il serait souhaitable que nous nous bornions à discuter des deux documents qui nous sont soumis sans nous écarter de ce point de l'ordre du jour.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Cuestión de orden. La delegación cubana plantea que se siga tal como habían pedido la palabra las delegaciones.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Si au cours d'un débat il est fait allusion à une autre délégation, le Règlement prévoit qu'au cours de la même séance, éventuellement jusqu'à la fin de la séance, il soit possible à l'Etat ou à la personne visée de répondre à ce qui a été dit par l'un ou l'autre des intervenants, conformément au Règlement.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPONSE

DERECHO DE REPLICIA

**John MIRANDA (United States of America) :** I will not take a lot of time regarding this issue. I want to concur with the remarks of the Chairman. All

I will say is that the Council should not have to listen to these unfortunate polemics that have been issued against the United States; I will state quite categorically that the statement is totally inappropriate in this form. Thank you very much Mr Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué des Etats-Unis de son intervention.

Je voudrais rappeler que nous discutons du document CL 102/2 qui traite de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** C'est avec plaisir que nous retrouvons aujourd'hui les membres du Conseil et particulièrement vous-même, notre Président auquel la délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire adresse ses vifs remerciements pour le travail inlassable qu'il a accompli à la tête de notre organe depuis son entrée en fonction. Nos remerciements et nos félicitations vont également à M. H.W. Hjort pour sa présentation très concise du document pertinent. Nos félicitations s'adressent également au Directeur général ainsi qu'à tout le Secrétariat qui, en dépit d'un environnement financier toujours difficile et précaire a su, contre vents et marées, maintenir le cap du navire FAO.

L'intervention toujours aussi perspicace et pleine de décision, de courage et de lucidité que nous avons entendue ce matin de la part du Directeur général, a profondément marqué notre délégation. Elle nous rassure à double titre: d'abord sur un plan strictement financier, malgré la situation tendue des comptes de la FAO, nous enregistrons une évolution positive du paiement des arriérés de contribution, notamment la nouvelle du règlement de sa contribution en cours par le principal bailleur de fonds de l'Organisation, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, sans lesquels il convient de rappeler qu'il sera toujours très difficile à notre Organisation de réaliser son programme de travail car, comme on le sait, le quart du budget ordinaire de la FAO vient de ce pays.

La deuxième assurance vient de l'élan sans cesse maintenu du personnel de cette Organisation. Malgré les difficultés que connaît ce personnel, notamment ceux des services généraux, et malgré les désagréments provisoires posés par l'agrandissement des locaux, le personnel de la FAO continue de répondre avec compétence et dévouement à toutes les sollicitations dont il est l'objet.

Il me semble tout à fait indiqué, au moment où notre Conseil se retrouve de lui porter publiquement un hommage mérité.

Je voudrais maintenant en tant que délégué à cette réunion, mais surtout en tant qu'Africain, aborder le point inscrit à notre ordre du jour à savoir "la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1992", mais je l'aborderai sous un angle particulier et exclusif que vous comprendrez aisément puisqu'il s'agit des matières premières et notamment des matières premières agricoles.

La lancinante et fondamentale question des matières premières est l'objet des préoccupations quotidiennes de l'ensemble des pays producteurs et notamment ceux du continent africain, comme l'a du reste très bien traité le Directeur général dans sa déclaration d'ouverture à nos travaux.

De quoi s'agit-il?

Il s'agit bel et bien d'un problème de solidarité tant il est exact que les matières premières produites et commercialisées par les uns, transformées et consommées par les autres, sont au coeur même de l'activité économique et commerciale du monde et conditionnent à ce titre, la qualité et l'intensité de la coopération entre les pays et les opérateurs économiques.

De fait, la gestion internationale des matières premières devra reposer sur le socle de la solidarité car la défection des uns est préjudiciable aux autres.

Or, que constatons-nous?

Les matières premières d'origine minérale et surtout agricole ont des prix qui se sont orientés à la baisse depuis 1980, en raison de facteurs et causes divers dont la dérégulation excessive des marchés internationaux, par le fait de certains pays et opérateurs du Nord qui entendent privilégier la loi dite de l'offre et de la demande au mépris des exigences minimales de coopération et de solidarité internationales qu'impose à la conscience de l'ensemble des partenaires des filières l'importance des matières dans les économies déjà fragilisées par un service de la dette en croissance continue.

Cette baisse des cours des matières premières, notamment le café et le cacao pour mon pays, entraîne des conséquences dévastatrices non seulement au plan de l'équilibre macro-économique mais au plan des menaces que sont les perturbations d'ordre économique et social que seule la solidarité des différents partenaires pourrait aider à évacuer.

Certes, nous reconnaissons que, dans le contexte actuel, la poursuite des politiques d'ajustement structurel, vues sous un visage humain, constitue une priorité absolue, mais justement il faut craindre que la persistance de la faiblesse des cours mondiaux hypothèque gravement nos efforts d'ajustement et de restructuration dans les domaines politique, économique, financier et social, et ne constitue en définitive une menace sur le processus de démocratisation des Etats du continent africain. La Côte d'Ivoire souhaite donc, non seulement au sein de cette distinguée assemblée mais aussi d'autres instances, réitérer son appel permanent en vue de la conclusion rapide des travaux de l'Uruguay Round et de nouveaux accords sur le café et le cacao, accords qui pourraient s'étendre à d'autres matières premières produites sur notre continent.

Le monde est un village planétaire et ne croyons pas que la richesse des uns se fait toujours au prix de la pauvreté des autres. L'endettement de l'Afrique est insupportable et nos problèmes n'ont pas toujours le même relief

qu'ailleurs, ne serait-ce que pour parler d'un sujet qui aujourd'hui est sur toutes les lèvres, celui de l'environnement. Pour un pays comme le mien et pour presque tous les pays africains, le grand problème n'est pas tant la pollution industrielle mais plutôt l'épuisement des ressources naturelles du sol et du sous-sol du fait de leur exploitation intensive pour compenser la chute de la valeur unitaire marchande des matières premières sur les marchés mondiaux, ce qui, manifestement, représente une menace grave pour les générations présentes et futures.

Vous l'aurez compris, il existe bel et bien un lien très fort entre la garantie des recettes d'exportation des matières premières, et notamment agricoles, la gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles et la préservation de l'environnement.

En terminant mon intervention, je voudrais tout simplement me permettre de porter à l'attention de ce Conseil les propos des hautes personnalités connues de tous et je citerai d'abord Robert McNamara: "Les paysans africains, entre autres, sont d'excellents économistes; s'ils reçoivent de bons prix pour leurs productions agricoles permettant l'utilisation de technologies sans danger pour l'environnement, ils prendront les décisions qui conviennent du point de vue non seulement économique mais également écologique".

Je citerai aussi M. le Directeur général du Fonds monétaire international à propos de l'Europe occidentale dans ses rapports avec l'Europe de l'Est: "Le marché ne s'oppose pas à la solidarité mais les deux doivent se rejoindre".

Je forme le vœu qu'un jour très proche, ici comme dans d'autres enceintes internationales, nous parlions enfin le même langage et que nous nous rejoignons dans cette lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté mais aussi pour un développement équilibré dans le monde.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie tout spécialement le représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire de son intervention et des idées qu'il a émises qui me paraissent particulièrement importantes dans le contexte africain et dans le contexte de développement du monde.

**Huang YONGNING (China) (Original language Chinese):** First of all, I wish to thank the FAO Secretariat for having prepared a very detailed document, CL 102/2.

This morning we listened to the opening statement of the Director-General, Edouard Saouma, in which he gave a full and systematic account of the current world state of food and agriculture. Mr Hjort has made a concise presentation of the document.

All this will surely facilitate our deliberations on this item. In recent years the international community and all governments have made tireless efforts at adjusting agricultural policies, eliminating poverty, combating hunger and promoting the study of sustainable development of agriculture; they have achieved quite gratifying results. The number of hungry and malnourished people in the world has dropped from 844 million in 1979-1981 to 786 million at present. Not only has the relative ratio gone down dramatically but also the absolute figure has reduced. Nevertheless, we must admit that what we have achieved still falls far short of the actual needs.

A number of longstanding and important issues in the field of world food and agriculture remain on the top of our agenda.

Firstly, world food and agricultural production is characterized by strong fluctuations, thus rendering the food security situation very fragile. In 1990 world cereal production reached a record high level of 1.97 billion tonnes, while in 1991 it turned back to 1.89 billion tonnes, though it is expected to register a slight increase this year.

During 1991-92 world cereal stocks stand at 324 million tonnes, two million tonnes less compared with the initial stage of this period. This amount only marginally reaches the minimum required stock level for world food security as established by the FAO Secretariat. Secondly, development has been uneven. The African food and agricultural situation has further deteriorated with millions of people suffering from hunger.

The third external condition for agricultural development remains unfavourable. The debt burdens of developing countries have shown no signs of lessening. There has been a back-flow of resources. Trade for agricultural commodities is threatened by very serious protectionism and, furthermore, the external assistance and food aid to agricultural development of developing countries has remained at a low level. Therefore, we are faced with an extremely arduous task in the field of agricultural development in the world.

In this context I wish to make the following observations. Firstly, the failure of the world food and agriculture situation to make substantial progress can be attributed to various factors. This is due to both natural calamities and political and economic factors. However, the main reason is that over a long period of time, under the shackles of the old economic order, a vast number of developing countries has been subject to unfair and unjust treatment. Their economic development has been hindered and their ecological environment damaged. As a result, a paradoxical phenomenon has emerged; the developing countries having suffered surplus agricultural production, developing countries have suffered from food shortages.

In this connection we believe that only by establishing a newer and more rational economic order, by creating a macro-economic environment conducive to common development benefiting all countries and remedying the current unbalanced pattern of production and distribution in world food and agriculture, can we bring about fundamental improvements in the state of the world food and agriculture.

Therefore, we wish to appeal to the international community to develop these countries and in particular to make greater efforts in strengthening international cooperation, lessening the debt burdens of developing countries, increasing agricultural assistance and in speeding up resource and technical transfer to them.

Secondly, following the ever-growing integration of the global economy and deepening international division of labour, the international agricultural trade is exercising more and more influence on national food and agricultural development.

The establishment of a fair, rational and open international agricultural trade system not only will have an important bearing on transforming the current unbalanced pattern of production and distribution in world food and

agriculture so as to strengthen developing countries' capacity for self-reliance but also will play an instrumental role in the development of developing countries themselves.

It is our hope that the parties concerned will take a positive attitude and make serious efforts to reduce subsidies for agricultural trade and support to their domestic production by opening their markets to developing countries so as to ensure a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of negotiations.

Thirdly, further efforts are called for to help build the capacity of self-reliance in developing countries. There is no doubt that whether a country can solve its problems on food and agriculture depends mainly on its own development. The vast number of developing countries should work hard to remove social, economic and political obstacles in their agricultural development and adjust their structure so as to achieve coordinated progress.

In this regard we have always advocated the principle of development in accordance with specific local conditions and believed in an integrated development strategy of increasing agricultural input through multiple channels, rigorously promoting agricultural research and its extension.

I wish now to take this opportunity of saying a few words on Chinese agricultural development.

Since the policy of reform and opening to the outside world was adopted, Chinese agricultural development has been crowned with remarkable success. In 1991, despite serious floods in some areas, there was still a fairly good harvest in the calamity-ridden year and the rural economy as a whole achieved all-round development. The production of food grains, cotton and oil-bearing crops reached a second all-time high level of 435 million tonnes, 5.66 million tonnes and 16.38 billion tonnes respectively.

Chinese livestock production also achieved a steady development. Meat production reached 27.12 million tonnes. Aqua production continued to increase, with the total reaching 13.2 million tonnes.

This year, guided by the overall policy of vigorously developing high yield, high quality and highly efficient agriculture, efforts have been made to adjust the rural economic structure. As a result, crop production and the rural economy continued to develop steadily. The total production of meat, eggs and aquatic products continued to increase.

Although Chinese agriculture has achieved a tangible success, there still exist large debts between development and people's growing needs.

In recent years the Chinese Government reiterated that it was putting emphasis on strengthening agriculture in an effort to invigorate the entire rural economy. Under the guidance of the general policy of developing socialist market economies, we shall continue to consolidate the household contracting responsibility system with remuneration linked to production, gradually improving the double layer management system of unified leadership combined with decentralization. We will adhere to the principle of developing agriculture by relying on science and technology, increasing agricultural input through various channels and various forms, so as to stabilize and increase food and cotton production while actively readjusting the internal structure of agriculture. We will vigorously promote agriculture, forestry,



animal husbandry and fisheries, develop a yield with high quality and highly efficient agriculture and eventually improve the managerial level of intensive agriculture and the capacity for integrated production.

It is our firm belief that through the above-mentioned measures the Chinese will achieve greater progress and thus make its due contribution toward the stable development of world agriculture.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement le représentant de la Chine de son intervention, dans laquelle il a abordé de nombreux thèmes, et, notamment la description qu'il nous a faite de la situation agricole de son pays. Je le félicite de cette brillante intervention.

**Gian Paolo PAPA (EEC) :** I am honoured to address Council for the first time since our accession to this Organization. I can assure you that the EEC will do everything possible to contribute to the realization of the objectives of the FAO.

I turn now to my statement on behalf of the European Economic Community.

The documents CL 102/2 and its supplement provide a comprehensive and useful overview of the present state of food and agriculture and food security in the world. They indicate a slight overall improvement in the world food situation during this year, but aggregate world cereal stocks remain almost unchanged from last year's level which is considered a low level from the food security point of view.

Although the world food situation thus seems to improve marginally, there are large differences between regions and even larger ones between individual countries such as drought hit southern and eastern parts of Africa, while the Sahelian region has fairly good harvest prospects. In the interesting section of CL 102/2 on prospects for developing economies that depend heavily on agricultural trade, one of the conclusions is that structural changes are badly needed to reduce external dependence, to the extent permitted by their natural endowments and competitiveness. This would imply for low income, net food importers adopting a strategy to replace imports by domestically produced crops and an increased export orientation for non-foods. For exporters this would mean diversifying and expanding trade in processed products. It implies, anyhow, a structural adjustment process, a revised role of governments in relation to other economic actors and a certain degree of liberalization of markets.

Concerning this liberalization, in the Community's view, temporary protection of national markets may be justified by economic arguments such as international dumping, overvalued exchange rates, infant industry, or by other reasons such as the wish to diminish pressure for migration or environmental protection.

Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP) as they are being applied presently by many developing countries should, in the opinion of the Community, not only be assessed in macro-economic and financial terms but particular attention should also be given to equity and social considerations. That is to say, food security and nutrition, health considerations, employment and education aspects are increasingly being given special emphasis under these structural

adjustment programmes where the Community is involved. Guidelines were developed and others are under preparation to help incorporate food security and nutrition consideration into the design and implementation of structural adjustment programmes. These imply that under the programmes of the Community in structural adjustment situations food aid may be used to help prevent shortages of soaring prices and to ensure access to food by vulnerable groups; to some extent counterpart funds could also be used for the same purposes.

Notwithstanding attention for structural adjustment programmes, for environment and for many other lines of action, agriculture and food security remain at the heart of the Community's cooperation programmes, because of its conviction that food security will, for some time, remain among the main problems that have to be addressed in most developing countries. Around two-thirds of the regular programme under the Lomé III Convention was concentrated in these fields.

The Community attaches great importance to the promotion of food security on a regional basis, without saying that such a strategy is easy. One of the tools that is being used in this context is triangular food aid whereby food is purchased by the Community in one developing country for delivery to another, if possible in the same region. It represents an increasing share of our food aid operations.

This year once again the drought hit especially sub-Saharan Africa, and more particularly the southern part of it, which faced a crisis of unprecedented dimensions.

In the light of this new situation, the European Community decided to make a substantial extra effort. A special programme to provide the equivalent of 800 000 tonnes of cereals for the worst affected countries, and funds to cover transport costs up to final destination were approved and finalized in early May. This special food aid programme was valued at US\$300 million and brought the European Community food aid for the worst affected countries in 1992 to nearly 1.7 million tonnes. Special emphasis was also put on the supply of seeds for the next harvest in cooperation with FAO.

I would like in this context to draw attention to the excellent work that is being done by the Global Information and Early Warning System, which is an important input for decisions on food-aid allocations.

With regard to Central and Eastern Europe, a potential worry may exist which we would like to dispel. The Community's new assistance programmes to the rapidly changing economies in that part of Europe are not to the detriment of existing aid programmes for Third World countries. Aid, including food aid, to Central and Eastern Europe is quite separate from, and on top of, ongoing lines of development cooperation, be it with our partners under the Lomé Conventions, or with other developing nations. I realize that we have said this before on other occasions, but it seems desirable to repeat this information again.

The conclusion of the highly interesting box on page 44 concerning marine fisheries that the annual operating costs of the global marine fishing fleet in 1989 were greater than the total revenue should, in our view, be treated with caution. Therefore, it is proposed to further elaborate the arguments so as to facilitate a full appreciation of the situation and a further discussion on it.

The document CL 102/2 also refers to the association agreements between the EC and Hungary, Poland and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, and to the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Concerning the association agreements, some clarifications to the present text would seem appropriate. We have given them to the Secretariat, and copies of our note are available for interested delegations.

As regards the reform of the Community's Agricultural Policy, we thank the Secretariat for the concise but rather complete presentation of the important decisions taken this year and for its analysis of the outcome of the reform in relation to the Uruguay Round.

This analysis shows that the Common Agricultural Policy reform will produce substantial results which, in a number of cases, go even beyond the requirements in the GATT Draft Final Act. The Community gives the highest priority to a rapid conclusion of the Uruguay Round and will continue to make every effort to reach this goal.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le délégué de la Communauté européenne nous a parlé des accords d'association et de mises au point qui peuvent être faites et remises au Secrétariat de la FAO. Je voudrais faire un petit commentaire: la Communauté économique européenne, depuis un an, a suscité de grands espoirs. Je crois que, compte tenu de ses possibilités et nonobstant la lourdeur et la longueur, parfois, de certaines procédures administratives, il sera bientôt possible d'arriver à une vraie coopération entre la Communauté et la FAO. A partir du moment où la Communauté économique européenne est devenue membre de la FAO, cette coopération est non seulement souhaitable mais indispensable.

**Jalal RASSOOLOF (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** Mr Chairman, it is a great pleasure to see you once again chairing the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I am fully confident that under your chairmanship this session of the Council will be concluded successfully.

I should like to congratulate the distinguished delegates of Mexico, India and Morocco on their election as Vice-Chairmen of this session of the Council.

With regard to Item 4 of our Agenda and document CL 102/2 and CL 102/2 - Sup.1, I should first like to express my appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for preparing such a comprehensive and informative document. Secondly, regarding the food and agricultural production situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I should like to make the following remarks.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with a clear understanding of the world food and agricultural situation and an assessment of the consequences of population growth and the prospect of starvation and malnutrition beyond 2000, in 1989 implemented its First Five Year Agricultural Development Plan. It should be noted that in the planning and implementation of this Plan some sustainable development criteria, such as food security, bridging the balance between self-sufficiency and self-reliance in agricultural production, increasing the income of producers and rural communities, as well as environmental protection and rational use of renewable natural resources, have been taken into consideration. Fortunately, with

regard to the qualitative and quantitative objectives of this plan, remarkable success and achievements have been obtained, so that the increase in agricultural production attained has been more than planned and anticipated. This situation has led to a reduction in the dependence of the Islamic Republic of Iran on international market food sources, and it is expected that, through the implementation of the Second Five-Year Agricultural Development Plan, which will start in 1994, not only will the food requirements of Iranian communities be fully provided for but their exports of food and agricultural products to international markets will contribute some part of the solution to the world's food problems.

We are at present in the fourth year of the First Five-Year Development Plan. The state of staple food production of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the growth rate compared to the starting year of this Development Plan are as follows: wheat, 10 million tonnes, with 45 percent growth; paddy rice, 2.5 million tonnes, with 56 percent growth; barley, 3.7 million tonnes, with 26 percent growth; pulses, 0.6 million tonnes, with 56 percent growth; sugar beet, 6 million tonnes, with 71 percent growth; cotton lint, 0.4 million tonnes, with 15 percent growth; fish products, 0.36 tonnes, with 22 percent growth.

As a result of this increase in agricultural products, imports of these products have declined by about 52 percent at the end of the third year of the Development Plan. We expect this trend to continue in the future.

**Nusyirwan ZEN (Indonesia):** Mr Chairman, at the outset let me express my great pleasure in seeing you again in the Chair at the 102nd Session of FAO's Council. Under your capable stewardship, I believe that the 102nd Session of FAO's Council will be a very successful one.

Secondly, allow me to associate myself with previous speakers in offering His Excellency M.S. Gill of India, His Excellency Jimenez Morales of Mexico and His Excellency Sebti of Morocco my heartiest congratulations on their election as Vice-Chairmen of this Council.

The Indonesian delegation took note of the state of food and agriculture as contained in document CL 102/1 and its supplement, and we wish to express our deep concern at the dim outlook of global availability of food, despite the technologically possible potential to increase world agricultural production. We realize that the current and future outlook of international food and agriculture has been, and will be, greatly influenced by man-made factors such as political instability and international trade arrangements for agricultural commodities. On the other hand, agricultural development is also a fragile risk, due to natural-made factors such as the serious drought in southern Africa.

Let me take this opportunity to reiterate the global economic performance mentioned in the document. It was stated that we are all expecting a momentum in 1993 due to some improvement currently being made in the performance of the overall economic environment, especially some recovery in Eastern Europe and stronger growth in industrialized countries. The situation would be expected to lead to world growth in agriculture and trade, although it is not evenly distributed. The concern remains about international market access and market stability that can be materialized through international arrangement. The Indonesian delegation, therefore, underlines their hope for the successful

implementation of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations which is acceptable to every party.

In regard to food and agriculture in developing countries, let me reiterate some of the conclusions of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit Meeting recently held in Indonesia.

The Meeting expressed deep concern at the deterioration of the world food and agriculture situation, particularly in developing countries, despite the possibility the world has to produce twice as much as at present: it is imperative, therefore, to keep food and agriculture issues as a priority item on the international agenda.

The right to food is a fundamental universal human right, and we categorically reject the use of food as an instrument of political and economic pressure: the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition should be perceived not only in terms of providing assistance with a view to improving the living standards of the poor, but also as a means of reinforcing economic self-sufficiency and long-term prospects.

The international community and international organizations within the United Nations dealing with food and agricultural issues should continue closely to monitor further developments in the global food situation, especially in developing countries.

National food strategies remain a very useful means for advancing food production, food self-reliance, and better access to food. In this respect, the Heads of State or Government welcome every effort being made by international organizations in this field and encourage the organizations to improve food strategy cooperation and coordination among multilateral agencies.

In regard to the food and agriculture situation in Indonesia, we would like to express our appreciation for the inclusion of the Indonesian overview in document CL 102/2. Let me add some information on the current situation.

During 1989-1991, soybean reached the highest annual production increase among food crops, namely 7.07 percent, followed by peanuts 3.4 percent and rice 2.4 percent. During the same period, the annual production increase for horticultural crops reached 10.2 percent for vegetables and 4.54 percent for fruits. Annual production increase for livestock products such as meat, eggs and milk reached 5.5 percent, 4.8 percent, and 11.4 percent respectively. The highest annual production increase for estate crops was reached by cocoa (about 16.2 percent), followed by oil palm (10.9 percent), and rubber (3.5 percent). Sugar cane reached the lowest annual increase in production, namely 2.07 percent. Our annual fishery production during 1989-1991 reached 4.8 percent. The increase in fishery production was partly due to an increase in investment from private as well as public enterprises.

Estimates of the Indonesian food and agriculture production for 1992 are highly tentative. For rice however the forecasted production increase for 1992 is about 5.8 percent, namely from 44.7 million tonnes (of unhusked dried rice ready for milling) in 1991 to about 47.3 million tonnes in 1992.

We are concerned at the depressed agricultural commodity prices as stated in the supplement of document CL 102/2. We realize that such a situation has

resulted in difficulty of exporting countries such as Indonesia adequately to expand their export earnings, producers' income, and economic growth. Such an undesirable situation can be alleviated when factors contributing to depressed agricultural commodity prices can be minimized among others through better international market arrangement. We therefore urge FAO to increase its assistance for an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

Indonesia has been struggling with structural adjustment for many years. Policy reforms and economic adjustments have been started twenty-three years ago since we launched our First Five-year National Development Plan in 1969. Stability, economic growth, and equitable development efforts and its results have been the three basic principles in making social, economic and structural adjustments. Different sets of policy reforms as stated in the document have been initiated and implemented depending on the stage of development achieved.

The results of such diverse policy reforms have been encouraging. Indonesia has been able to accomplish rapid economic growth, rice self-sufficiency since 1984, alleviate rural poverty, and minimize use of pesticides and insecticides in rice production through the Integrated Pest Management without reducing rice yield.

At present, the Indonesian food and agriculture policy is focusing on sustainable development of agribusiness and agricultural human resources, among others through higher efficiency of resource utilization, long-term agriculture productivity, conservation of natural resources, and increasing participation of rural youth and women in development. It is for this reason that Indonesia strongly supports the proposal for WCARRD follow-up activities.

**CHAIRMAN:** I read with great attention your comments about the policy to work against poverty, and the developments for the rural people of Indonesia. There was also very interesting documentation from the Philippines which I studied attentively: also the policy of the Bureau of Logistics, Indonesia. Thank you for all the information you have given us.

**Frederick SUMAYE (Tanzania) :** On behalf of the Tanzanian delegation and on my own behalf, I wish to thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor this afternoon during the discussion of this very important topic which concerns us all.

I also wish to congratulate you on the guidance which you are giving this meeting as its very able Chairman.

May I also congratulate the Deputy Director-General for his brief, but very elaborate, presentation of document CL 102/2.

During my presentation I shall be making references most of the time to Tanzania's situation, with reference of course to agriculture and the food situation. I do not intend to speak for any other country, but I am sure the situation in other developing poor countries will be more or less the same as that of Tanzania.

Agriculture in most of these developing countries - which are generally poor countries - is characterized by very, very primitive technology which is being

applied normally. Most of the agriculture will be dependent on rainwater only, and of course the rains in these countries are normally very, very unreliable and insufficient. For instance, to give an example of Tanzania, we irrigate only about five percent of the area which is under cultivation. Therefore, you can see that most of our agriculture is dependent upon rainwater, and this makes agriculture very unreliable.

Another characteristic of agriculture in developing countries is that it uses a very, very low level of input. Very few, sometimes no inputs at all are applied; with the continued use of the land and depletion of resources from the soil, definitely further addition of surplus nutrients is very necessary. Therefore, if these inputs are not available or are not applied, what you end up with is a very poor production. Also, herbicides and insecticides in agriculture in the developing countries are not widely used. Most of the time these herbicides are not available, or, if they are available, they will not be available in time and in the quantities which will be required by the farmers. Another characteristic of agriculture in the developing countries is the inadequate and poor storage facilities. This is very important. Sometimes, because of the rainfed agriculture, we have good seasons, but if we have no storage facilities we have the problem of keeping the surplus production, so that sometimes we end up with a lot of produce being destroyed, or at least with prices going so low that farmers are discouraged from growing the same crop in the following season.

Another problem is that of inadequate financial resources, that is, in the case of inputs. Where country's production is insufficient it has to be subsidized by inputs. Most of the time such countries, because of their financial status, cannot even afford to import the food that is required for their own people.

Finally, we have the problem of insufficient, inefficient and poor-to-nonexistent infrastructure. The roads and transport systems are so poor that it becomes too expensive or sometimes almost impossible to move produce from one corner of the country to another, generally from the areas that produce the crops to the areas that consume them, or areas of deficit.

These are all problems encountered by agriculture in the developing countries. As I have said, Tanzania is one of them.

Inefficient agriculture, which then gives low production per unit area, is therefore characterized by low agricultural production. But another characteristic in these poor countries is the high human production. You have low crop production but high human production or high rates of population increases. Of course, with those two factors combined you have poverty and, in extreme cases, starvation and death.

If I may give an example, again from Tanzania: from the year 1986/87 for four years consecutively we had very good rainfall and weather, and therefore we had many good crops. In fact, we produced surplus crops of maize, rice and beans. But in the year following, that is 1990/91 and 1991/92, there was a shortage of rain and we had a shortage of crops. We were not even able to feed ourselves. So you can understand my saying that the development of storage capacities is important, in that when we had good rainfall we could not store enough of our crops which we could have used during the poor seasons.

The problem of agriculture now in Tanzania - which again I am sure affects a lot of other poor countries - is that of fertilizers. For this season alone in Tanzania we had estimated that we would require about 260 000 tons of different fertilizers. You can see that this is a very low level of fertilizer application for a country like Tanzania which has an area of almost one million square kilometres. Even at this very low level of fertilizer application, up to now we have been able to get into the country only 15 percent of this fertilizer, and another 18 percent is probably coming. Therefore, so far we can say we have managed only a third of this very low level of application. So you can see that the poor countries have all these constraints.

Herbicides and insecticides are the same. We are able to manage only about 50 percent of seeds, and obviously even when the rains come if you do not have enough seeds and you do not have enough fertilizers you are in a very bad vicious circle.

As for cash crops, as has been mentioned by most of those who have spoken already, most of the crops in the world market now fetch very low prices. This is a big problem because the prices of crops are falling while the prices of inputs that are required by the farmers are rising. Probably the only answer to this problem is if the developing countries can process their crops.

In Tanzania, for instance, we have very low processing capacities. Therefore, most of our crops are sold in the outside markets as raw produce. Cotton is sold as cotton lint; sisal is sold as fibre; coffee is unprocessed; and the prices of those crops in the world market have been falling from time to time.

As to the food situation, Tanzania is facing a cereals shortage of about 318 000 tons for this season alone. This is composed of maize, about 151 000 tons; rice 114 000 tons, wheat, 44 000 tons; and sorghum 9 000 tons. This is only talking of cereals. We had expected to tackle the problem in the following manner.

First, by donor assistance. This is a short-term solution to help those who are really in need. Unfortunately, we have been unable to get what we required. We have been able to get slightly less than 10 000 tons. This is obviously a very small portion of the 318 000 tons.

Also, we expected that we would get the short rains that normally start in about September/October. If the rains had come we would have been able to get around 130 000 tons of grains. Again, up to now the short rains have not come, so we are really worried.

Another area is the collection and storage of all the produce that has been produced in the country as strategic grains reserve. We have tried our best, and have so far collected about 115 000 tons out of a target of 150 000 tons. Again, this is just a strategic reserve which will not be sufficient for the requirements of my country.

Finally, importation is constrained by the resources in the country, and we think we shall probably manage only 20 000 tons.



While we appreciate that it is the responsibility of each country to feed her own nationals, we also believe that it is the duty of each one of us to see that one part of the population does not suffer till death while the other part suffers from overproduction and surpluses.

We also appreciate that our situation is not as critical as that in other countries, especially those that suffered from an unprecedented drought for years or civil strifes or both. Much as we have this in mind, we wish to bring to the attention of this body that it is also very important and timely that countries that are struggling hard to avert crisis situations be assisted as a matter of priority. The assistance should be given to alleviate the shortage of food as a short-term strategy, and in terms of agricultural production support, for example in terms of fertilizers, seeds, herbicides, pesticides and technological assistance, as a longer- term strategy.

We also wish to bring to the attention of this Council the unfavourable terms of trade which favour the rich nations and suppress the poor nations, hence making them poorer and poorer. The developing poor countries normally depend mainly on agricultural produce which is sold unprocessed. The prices of these unprocessed commodities have been falling almost continuously while the prices of manufactured goods required by these poor countries and obtained from the developed, industrialized and rich countries have been steadily rising.

Under this trend it is obvious that the poor countries will fail completely to compete with their rich partners, and the only answer left to them will be to stop agricultural production or to produce at very uneconomical low levels of production.

Therefore, if we intend to assist the developing poor countries, the poor countries have to be assisted so that they can add some value to their agricultural produce. If those countries continue to sell unprocessed produce as I mentioned, such as cotton lint, sisal fibre, coffee beans, wood longs, etc., the poor countries will continue to be poor and the rich countries will become richer, hopefully, thus widening the gap between the poor and the rich. In this situation, therefore, the poor will be asking for donations of food, agricultural inputs, technology, implements and equipment, and those requests will be endless.

If these poor countries are not assisted positively to make their agriculture more sustainable, we shall be adding more countries to the food shortage crisis list which, in the end, we will have to assist. After all, at the end of the day the world we live in may not make much sense if part of our population is dying or suffering beyond endurance from famine and hunger.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais maintenant passer la parole à l'honorable représentant de la République française, M. Jacques Laureau, nouvel Ambassadeur auprès de la FAO, auquel je voudrais souhaiter la bienvenue au sein de notre Conseil.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** La délégation française tient à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du travail d'analyse de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture qui est un constat réaliste de la situation.

Le rapport qui nous a été soumis démontre les difficultés croissantes auxquelles sont confrontés les pays dont l'activité économique ou dont les besoins sont liés à l'agriculture et met en exergue la baisse générale de la production. Il est vrai que cette constatation pessimiste globalement est émaillée, au détour de certaines pages, de remarques plus positives, par exemple sur l'augmentation de la production de denrées de base dans certains pays africains et en Amérique latine. Mais il apparaît aussi que la croissance démographique y est mal maîtrisée annulant les gains acquis.

Cette évolution générale ne met que mieux en valeur le caractère rémanent des pénuries alimentaires et des situations d'urgence dans la Corne de l'Afrique, au Soudan, en Tanzanie, en Afrique australe, au Libéria, en Afghanistan, au Cambodge, au Laos, en Iraq. Les événements survenus en Europe ne font eux-mêmes qu'alourdir la demande d'aide ou d'appui alimentaire et il n'est plus aujourd'hui totalement assuré que les disponibilités en aide seront à la mesure de l'augmentation de ces besoins comme le déclarait, par exemple, le rapport spécial du SMIAR de septembre 1992 à propos de l'Afrique.

Ce panorama général où, d'un côté, il y a stagnation voire baisse de la production agricole pour la première fois depuis 1983 et où d'un autre côté, il y a multiplication des situations d'urgence, ressemble fort à un aveu d'impuissance internationale, lequel aveu est inacceptable à la veille du second millénaire, surtout lorsque l'on demande à beaucoup d'agriculteurs de pays à climat tempéré à fort taux de productivité de réduire leurs capacités d'approvisionner le marché international.

Le danger de cet état de choses est aussi d'accentuer le cercle vicieux de l'aide agricole internationale, c'est-à-dire l'aide d'urgence, de plus en plus valorisée par les médias auprès des opinions publiques, mais qui risque d'occulter les approches à plus long terme. Méfions-nous des phénomènes de dépendance que nous allons créer en croyant bien faire. Ces phénomènes de dépendance ne pourront que se multiplier puisque les experts internationaux constatent que le mouvement de décélération de la croissance démographique est moins net que prévu. Or, l'évolution démographique entraîne à elle seule entre les deux tiers et les trois quarts au minimum de l'augmentation de la consommation de céréales de ces pays.

Il nous faut donc ne pas céder à la facilité d'une conception trop exclusive de l'action internationale qui serait fondée sur la seule aide alimentaire; celle-ci ne devrait être que provisoire et dégressive.

C'est pourquoi le constat qui est fait doit nous conduire à nous demander comment les institutions spécialisées de Rome seront capables de contribuer, avec les autres institutions financières internationales - groupe de la Banque mondiale et banques régionales - à l'initiative d'un processus de développement agricole et rural à long terme qui soit "durable". A cet égard, la réforme en cours des organisations des Nations Unies comprend, dans ses objectifs, la volonté de comprendre les raisons de l'échec des politiques de développement dans certaines régions du monde et de proposer les changements d'orientation nécessaires. Le Conseil de la FAO pourrait être le creuset, non pas de l'énumération de souhaits mille fois exprimés ici et ailleurs, mais de propositions plus concrètes d'action. Sa vocation de conseil aux politiques nationales agricoles, en partant du partage des expériences, doit être exaltée et poussée. Des analyses fort intéressantes qui nous ont été soumises dans la seconde partie du rapport au sujet des résultats des politiques suivies dans tel ou tel pays appartenant à telle ou telle région, il y a des leçons à

tirer: par exemple sur le fait de savoir quel est le minimum de protection à assurer à l'agriculture pour éviter les phénomènes d'urbanisation massifs, quel est le minimum de réglementation nationale nécessaire, quelles sont les limites d'une libéralisation forcenée et totale des échanges, etc. Bref, dépassons les constatations, réfléchissons, concertons-nous pour éviter autant les rivalités stériles entre grands producteurs/donateurs que la dépendance dans laquelle nous risquerions de placer certains pays demandeurs d'aide. Notre pays, pour sa part, restera engagé financièrement et politiquement aux côtés des pays les moins avancés comme le prouve l'accroissement constant de notre budget d'aide et de coopération; il continuera également à recommander une meilleure orientation des politiques d'aide de la Banque mondiale et du FMI en vue de sauvegarder les catégories les plus vulnérables dans le contexte de l'ajustement structurel.

A propos des situations régionales et me référant à la très intéressante intervention de mon collègue de Côte d'Ivoire, je dirais que du point de vue français, la situation en Afrique subsaharienne est à cet égard extrêmement préoccupante. Les agriculteurs doivent être incités à produire davantage. Cependant, ils n'investiront pour augmenter leur production que s'ils sont sûrs de rentabiliser les fonds investis en vendant leurs récoltes. Or souvent, les agriculteurs n'ont, comme objectifs de production, que celui de satisfaire leurs besoins personnels. La crise que connaissent les grands produits de rente comme le café, le cacao, l'arachide, entraîne les Etats, du fait de l'ajustement structurel, à baisser leur prix d'achat aux producteurs; ceux-ci diminuent donc leur production en n'augmentant pas les surfaces qu'ils y consacrent quand ce n'est pas en les diminuant. Pour les autres produits, le raisonnement n'est pas le même, mais les producteurs n'étant pas sûrs de les vendre, ne cultivent que ce qui leur est nécessaire pour leurs besoins familiaux. Il faut donc augmenter le marché de ces produits.

A cet effet, les Ministres de l'agriculture de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre qui se sont réunis à Dakar en 1991 ont préconisé une régionalisation des marchés agricoles mais aussi des politiques agricoles. Une telle initiative doit être appuyée et reprise dans d'autres régions: Afrique orientale, Afrique australe... La demande tirera alors l'offre. En outre, si une surproduction apparaissait localement, des entrepôts, greniers, pourraient être aménagés; ils constitueraient une réserve pour l'aide alimentaire triangulaire et une réserve nationale en cas de pénurie.

Mais pour que les agriculteurs puissent vendre leurs produits, il ne faut pas que d'autres produits importés concurrents arrivent moins chers dans le pays: les Etats doivent être autorisés à instituer une protection douanière pour protéger leur agriculture. Il ne faut pas oublier que l'aide alimentaire peut avoir le même effet: sauf en cas d'urgence, elle doit être vendue dans les pays bénéficiaires, à un prix qui permette un écoulement normal des produits nationaux sans les concurrencer.

La France soutient l'initiative du Ministre sénégalais de l'agriculture et appuie les tentatives d'intégration régionale, sous quelque forme que ce soit: UDEAC, CEAO...

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, représentant permanent de la République française. Il est incontestable que l'aide d'urgence n'est pas, à proprement parler, du développement. Nonobstant, elle reste indispensable. Les considérations que vous avez émises sont particulièrement intéressantes et

susciteront des débats sur une approche opérationnelle très concrète et très précise des immenses défis auxquels notre Organisation, en relation avec l'ensemble des agences des Nations Unies, devra faire face dans les années qui viennent.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, again the Secretariat has submitted an extensive, highly informative and, with Supplement 1 to document CL 102/2, an updated account of what is FAO's main concern: food and agriculture in its global dimension. Let me thank the Secretariat for having provided delegations on time with this valuable basis for our Council debate.

My Government shares, in principle, the assessments made regarding the main aspects: overall economic environment, food and agricultural supply situation, trade, external assistance and food aid, sustainable agriculture. This part of the document adequately reflects the close interaction of political, economic and ecological factors underlying the global, regional and national developments in food and agriculture. However, a more direct reference to demographic growth would have made the overall picture more complete because this factor of population is growth known to impair any improvement, small as it might be, in food-deficit countries in terms of food production and preservation of natural resources.

Paragraph 62, Table 7 and footnote 21 might give us some comfort if the figures - what we do hope - are reliable. According to these findings the proportion of seriously undernourished in the total population of almost all developing countries has declined from 36 to 20 percent over the past twenty years. What is more: thanks to increased food production, particularly in the Far East region, for example in China, in Indonesia, and other countries, the number of people suffering from chronic undernourishment has also gone down in absolute terms. Notwithstanding this favourable trend, regional imbalances were found to persist, and we have to record a serious rise in the number of undernourished people in sub-Saharan Africa where one-third of the population is affected, with the absolute number having increased by over 60 percent during two decades. That means: in the nineties, 170 million out of approximately 500 million Africans go hungry or are seriously undernourished.

This sad fact alone out of the many others mentioned in the documents, weighs heavily on our minds and poses the painful question of solutions, or at least improvements, in a foreseeable future. I cannot but reaffirm what my delegation expressed on previous occasions: We are all committed to create conditions, both internally and externally, that will allow the mobilization of natural, economic and human resources that are needed to ensure the satisfaction of basic human needs. The revival of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) as envisaged by the UN for this decade, could, for example, provide FAO with another opportunity to translate into concrete action its mandate in the food and agriculture fields.

**Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan):** Since this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor, I would like to express our congratulations to you, Mr Chairman and the three Vice-Chairmen, on your election. I would also like to express our compliments to the Secretariat for the well-prepared document.

Mr Chairman, my country has a great concern for the stable food supply and demand as the largest net food importer in the world. To achieve the sustainability of the world food balance, my country deems that every effort should be made continuously by every member in the world for this goal.

Performance of world agricultural production in 1991 declined at the global level for the first time since 1983, with the cereal output estimated as 1 876 million tons, approximately four percent less than that of 1990, according to the document before us. Cereal production for 1992 is estimated to rise about one percent from that of 1991. This would result in cereal carry-over stock at the end of the 1992/93 to be 18 percent of annual world consumption volume at the level which FAO deems necessary for world food security.

The most important problem we should consider in the current food situation is the chronic food deficit in developing countries, particularly low income, food-deficit countries. Cereal production per capita in developing countries is calculated as 250 kg compared with 750 kg in developed countries. The point we should focus on is the fact that the gap between them is increasing year by year. The conditions under which there is increasing reliance by low-income, food-deficit countries on specified net food exporting developed countries are considered to be disturbing the achievement of world food security.

My country has been advocating the important role of agriculture in every country and the importance of the production of staple food in each territory on every occasion. In this context, the lucid statement by His Excellency Mr Mwangale, Minister of Agriculture for Kenya, on the last day of the WFC, which was held in Kenya in June this year, was very impressive. He emphasized the importance of the improvement and extension of traditional crops such as sorghum, millet and pulse and tuber crops which adjusted to the natural conditions of Africa and which play an important role in providing a balanced diet, thus reducing malnutrition, and also indicating the harmonization of the production of cash crops and food crops. Every country should support the establishment of its own agriculture.

Japan has actively participated in the international effort to assist developing countries in their pursuit of self-reliance and structural adjustment. Japan's Official Development Assistance has been progressively expanding.

In this context priority has been given to international cooperation in rural and agricultural development, health and medical care and education, particularly to the benefit of the poor and taking into account the participation of women in development. The intention is to mitigate food shortages by increasing food production and improving the living standards of farmers. This is an effort to respond to basic human needs.

Serious starvation has been rampant in eastern and southern African countries and elsewhere. With regard to food aid, Japan has attempted to improve its aid to the extent possible. In 1991 Japan's contribution to WFP and bilateral cooperation under the Food Aid Convention and the grant aid programme, including general and disaster relief grant aid, totals about US\$129 million. This year my government has already pledged about US\$55 million for the African food crisis alone. On this occasion my Government is appreciative of the valuable information on the Global and Early Warning System of FAO.

We strongly expect that the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations which have continued for six years will be successfully concluded. However, the negotiations between the United States of America and the EEC, which are the key to the negotiations, cannot find a breakthrough point. The destination of the GATT negotiations is covered with fog. In any case, based on the recognition that a successful conclusion is the consensus of all countries, my Government would like to continue its efforts to reach an early conclusion.

On forestry, 68 percent of Japan is covered by forest. On the other hand, since the greater part of our wood demand is satisfied from abroad, we being the importer because most of our trees are too young to cut, we have a great interest in the state of the world's forests and the FAO's activities in this field.

My delegation would like to express its positive participation in the field projects of FAO and the strengthening of TFAP, focusing on NFAP and towards the goal of establishing sustainable management and conservation of the forests. We base this particularly on Forestry Principles as adopted in UNCED.

Fish is an important supply of animal protein. It also has an important role in the economics of developing countries. It has become indispensable to secure sustainable fishery development in harmony with the environment.

To promote conservation and a rational utilization of all marine biological fishery resources, including marine mammals, we strongly expect FAO to approach this problem in a calm and rational manner, based on scientific evidence. The results will be reflected in international discussions. Japan will also assume its responsibility in tackling the task.

My country has participated positively in UNCED to mark a starting point for a new world order into the 21st century from the preparatory stage. There is firm recognition of the importance of the environment and the development problems. At the Earth Summit historical agreements were reached on an environmental framework for international cooperation which included the Rio Declaration. Japan, in recognizing the worldwide significance of this summit, will make an effort to realize its commitment to reduce its emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and to increase greatly the amount of Official Development Assistance.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to congratulate Japan on increasing its budget for cooperation. That will be very important in the future. Japan's voluntary contribution as well as its obligatory contribution will be most welcome.

**Adel CORTAS (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Monsieur le Président, nous avons écouté ce matin l'exposé admirable et exhaustif du Directeur général sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture; et cet après-midi, nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention l'intervention du Directeur général adjoint, M. Hjort. Je voudrais féliciter le Secrétariat de son document tant pour son contenu que pour sa forme et pour sa distribution dans toutes les langues.

A la lumière des deux exposés faits par le Directeur général et le Directeur général adjoint, je voudrais attirer l'attention sur deux points fondamentaux.

Premièrement, la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation mérite toute notre attention et tous nos soins, surtout dans les pays pauvres qui requièrent une attention particulière de notre part. La dégradation de la situation dans le continent africain - en Ethiopie, au Soudan, au Kenya, en Somalie, en Angola et au Mozambique - attire particulièrement notre attention.

Le deuxième point concerne la récession quasi totale du commerce mondial des produits agricoles. Comme il apparaît au paragraphe 29 du Supplément 1 du document CL 102/2 - à la page 15 de la version arabe -, en effet, la croissance moyenne du commerce dépasse à peine 1,5 pour cent en 1991 alors qu'elle était de 3,3 pour cent au cours des dix dernières années. Dans ce contexte, comme l'a mentionné le Directeur général dans son exposé de ce matin, il importe de souligner un point fondamental, à savoir la dégradation des prix des produits agricoles dans les pays en développement qui sont intéressés à écouler leurs exportations sur les marchés des pays développés à des prix raisonnables, susceptibles de leur assurer des revenus leur permettant de développer leur économie et permettant à leurs populations dans le besoin de relever leur niveau de vie.

D'autre part, il importe que les négociations du GATT soient couronnées de succès en raison des bienfaits qui en découleraient pour le monde entier, avec la libéralisation du commerce mondial et la suppression des barrières administratives et douanières.

Un troisième point concerne la RAIU. En effet, comme le Directeur général l'a mentionné dans son exposé, ce matin, et comme il ressort du document CL 102/2 sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1992, cette Réserve n'a atteint en 1992 qu'un montant inférieur à nos ambitions, c'est-à-dire 215 000 tonnes de produits alimentaires dont 193 000 tonnes de céréales.

Le Directeur général recommande depuis très longtemps de faire passer cette Réserve de 500 000 tonnes à un million de tonnes par an car elle constitue un outil puissant entre les mains de la FAO et du PAM pour fournir l'assistance voulue aux pays pauvres et aux pays victimes de catastrophes. Cette Réserve constitue le moyen de fournir une aide multilatérale d'urgence aux pays qui en ont besoin.

Un autre point concerne la forme du document présenté par la FAO sur la situation annuelle de l'agriculture et l'alimentation. Il s'agit sans aucun doute, d'un effort considérable qui a demandé beaucoup de temps et de travail de la part de la FAO pour que le document soit achevé à temps et dans toutes les langues de travail officielles. Au nom de mon pays je ne peux que féliciter et remercier le Directeur général, son assistant, et tout le personnel chargé des politiques économiques et sociales pour ce travail méritoire.

Si j'ai quelques observations à présenter c'est uniquement du point de vue de la forme, et non pas en ce qui concerne le contenu.

Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne le maintien de la structure actuelle du document, à savoir la situation mondiale dans les pays industrialisés, puis dans les pays en voie de développement, la dette extérieure, les prix de produits, la situation des disponibilités alimentaires, le commerce agricole etc., nous considérons important l'amendement du chapitre concernant l'agriculture écologiquement viable et la suite de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement. Nous accordons également de

l'importance au développement de la méthodologie relative à la situation alimentaire en prévision de la Conférence internationale de la nutrition qui se tiendra le mois prochain.

En second lieu si la FAO peut résumer, comme l'a commenté M. Hjort cet après-midi, tout le document, ce résumé pourrait s'appliquer à la deuxième partie de ce document concernant la situation par région.

Mon pays estime que la partie du document, qui va du paragraphe 197 au paragraphe 706, a demandé un énorme effort de la part de la FAO mais, selon nous, elle pourrait être résumée et je suis sûr que le département technique trouvera la formule ad hoc pour ce faire.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais souligner avant de terminer qu'après les efforts énormes nécessaires pour la préparation de ce document il serait utile que ce document soit édité dans l'année qui concerne la situation prise en examen afin que l'on puisse profiter de son contenu.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons terminer la session de cet après-midi.

Je signale que la liste des orateurs inscrits pour intervenir dans ce débat sera close demain matin à 9 h 30.

Je vous remercie pour toutes les interventions particulièrement intéressantes qui ont eu lieu. Il ne me reste qu'à vous souhaiter une excellente soirée et un excellent travail pour demain.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas.





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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 102/PV/3

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA  
(10 November 1992)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30

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

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas

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

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare ouverte la troisième séance plénière de notre Conseil. Je voudrais faire une communication: la composition du Comité de rédaction est en préparation; une dernière concertation doit être faite en fin de matinée et j'espère qu'en début de séance cet après-midi je serai en mesure de vous annoncer la composition définitive du Comité de rédaction ainsi que les propositions faites concernant la présidence de ce Comité de façon à ce que nous puissions élire le Président.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

4. State of Food and Agriculture 1992 (continued)

4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. 1992 (suite)

4. El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación. 1992 (continuación)

**Duck Soo AHN (Korea):** Mr Chairman, at the outset, I would like to join the other distinguished delegates in welcoming you to the Chair again.

My congratulations also go to your three Vice-Chairmen from Mexico, India and Morocco on their unanimous election. I wish you every success to produce more fruitful results than ever.

Coming to the topic of our deliberations, let me first express my compliments to the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of the comprehensive document before us. As in the past, document CL 102/2 and its supplement provide us with a useful overview of the main trends in production, consumption and trade of food and other agricultural products.

As we are all aware, agriculture has been, and continues to be, an important source of economic growth in developing countries and, therefore, it is impossible to imagine economic and social development in these countries without improvements in the agricultural sector.

In addition, there is close relationship between agriculture and the environment, especially in densely populated and economically weak developing countries. I strongly support the opinion that hungry people cannot be expected to protect the natural resources and the environment and concern themselves with the well-being of future generations when their immediate survival is at stake. In other words, vulnerable groups in many parts of the developing countries have no choice but to deplete the natural resources for their survival.

In this connection, the Korean delegation notes with anxiety that the recent performance of the global food and agricultural sector has been uneven, and the future prospects also remain somewhat uncertain.

According to the document, in spite of the minor increase in world food and cereal production in 1992 after the setback of the previous year, the cereal utilization requirement is calculated to exceed production level so that world carryover cereal stocks for crop year ending 1992 are estimated to be 6 percent fall from their opening level.

Furthermore, food aid commitments were not expanding to match the high level of food aid requirement over the world.

As a result, there are still regions in some African, Asian and Latin American countries that are combatting hunger and malnutrition as before.

At the current count, one out of five persons in the population of nearly 100 developing countries is undernourished. Also, we can be neither oblivious nor indifferent to the fate of millions of people who would be threatened with starvation caused by insufficient rainfall for a season or any other natural or man-made events.

Whatever the value of the ongoing efforts to help developing countries to reduce their economic imbalance, no viable solution can be obtained in the absence of an international economic environment that provides adequate opportunities to accelerate sustainable agricultural and rural developments. At this juncture, when the globalization of interests is becoming more widely appreciated, the need for enhanced partnership between North and South, rich and poor, is greater than before.

In this connection, I should like to stress that the early conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations is very desirable for the promotion of the welfare of the whole world community. For the Uruguay Round to be successfully concluded, the negotiations must reflect the different interests of each country in a balanced manner. As we know well, agriculture is one of the most sensitive sectors in the developing countries. Therefore, special considerations have to be given to the individual food importing developing countries in terms of active aspects of Uruguay Round negotiations in order to allow them to implement the agricultural adjustment programmes.

In closing, I hope that FAO will more actively cooperate with the member countries as well as with other technical agencies of the UN system, by providing the benefit of FAO's expertise and experience in the food and agricultural field, to ensure and to protect the welfare needs of the most vulnerable groups of the world.

**Christodoulos CHRISTODOULOU (Cyprus):** Mr Chairman, allow me to begin by expressing the appreciation of my delegation to the authors of documents CL 102/2 and Sup.1. The information presented in these documents, for both the global level and the regional level, with brief reference to selected countries in each region or economic zone, is really very useful for our deliberations. It reminds us of facts and figures, according to which, despite the slight improvements in the overall food supplies during the last 20 years, almost one-fifth of the world population is still suffering from malnutrition or hunger. As shown in Table 4 of the main document under review, the percentage rate of change in the per capita food production was negative for the 91 countries out of the 148 countries listed in this table.

It is important to note that 67 of the countries with negative rate of change are developing countries, most of which are food importers, by definition a low-income group facing great financial difficulties and, therefore, not in the position to finance food imports. As rightly stated in paragraph 40 for these countries, "strong and/or protracted increase in food import would pose the dilemma between food shortages and economic havoc unless food aid, or other forms of assistance, come to their rescue".

Likewise, many of the countries listed in Annex 2, as highly dependent on agricultural exports, may face the same dilemma in case of protracted decrease of prices for their agricultural exports, as in the case of coffee and cocoa shown in figure 10 of page 30, where we can notice a linear decrease of export prices of these products during the last seven years.

At this point I wish to express the full agreement of my delegation with the conclusions, referring to the aforementioned groups of countries in paragraph 41 of the document, namely, for promoting structural changes to reduce external dependence, for strengthening the purchasing capacity through export-oriented strategies and for import substitution. We also support the efforts for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, which we believe will improve the conditions of international trade for the benefit of all.

In view of the deteriorating economic and financial situation in many of the low-income and food deficit countries, and taking into account the current uncertainties in international economic affairs, we can state that at least the short-term prospects for improving the world food situation are not very promising. Surely, the overall problem concerned with these issues is a complex one requiring a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach, adequate funds and, above all, the will for cooperation.

We appreciate the fact that the international community is not indifferent to this huge problem of poverty and malnutrition. But we also believe that more assistance can and should be provided to the needy countries by those countries which are in the position to do so. The figures in Tables 8 and 9 indicate that both the total commitments and total disbursements or external assistance to agriculture, at constant prices, have decreased during 1988-90.

We, the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, wish to emphasize the need for increased external assistance to agriculture, especially for food production, food self-reliance and better access to food.

Finally, we express our appreciation and support to the efforts waged by FAO since its establishment, in promoting cooperation and multi-disciplinary activities aiming at improving world agricultural production and nutrition. There is no doubt that a lot has been achieved so far. But, we are still facing the challenge for a further improvement of the overall situation in the world regarding food availability and access to it by all. Even closer international cooperation and solidarity in practical terms is required if the world welfare community of our dreams and aspirations is going to become a reality in the years to come.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor for an intervention on Agenda Item 4, document CL 102/2, The State of Food and Agriculture 1992. Since I am taking the floor for the first time, I should like to congratulate the delegates of Mexico, India and Morocco on their election as Vice-Chairmen.

The document on this agenda item is elaborate, comprehensive, informative and educative, I commend the Secretariat for producing such an excellent document. The document contains critical analysis of the global economic scenario, agricultural production, external debts of developing countries, commodity

prices, the food security situation, regional shortages, agricultural trade, external assistance, food aid, and a host of other relevant information.

The global food scenario is not very inspiring. At the best, the situation has not worsened. On the other hand, the food situation in many countries, especially in Africa, is very critical.

In his speech yesterday, the Director-General depicted a vivid picture of the economy in developing countries. He talked about the collapse of the economy of developing countries. He talked about the tragic loss of life and human tragedies in Africa and also in Europe. He made a number of specific suggestions. These included: increased resources of the international emergency food reserve; pre-position of security stock in strategic locations so as to be able to move swiftly in case of emergencies; more investment for the development of agriculture; remunerative prices of agricultural commodities, etc.

My delegation strongly supports the new initiatives indicated in the speech of the Director-General. Bangladesh is a food deficit agricultural economy. Its dependence on agriculture is very pronounced. The share of agriculture in the GDP is 38.4 percent. Crop production accounts for about 78 percent of agriculture value added. Livestock and poultry raising account for 7.6 percent of agricultural incomes, while fisheries and forestry account for 7.5 and 6.6 percent respectively.

Due to its high density of population Bangladesh has the lowest per capita arable land which is less than 0.1 hectare. About 9 percent of the rural households lack any cultivable land while 2 percent are without homesteads. In 1991-92 the growth rate was 2.3 percent compared to 2.7 percent in 1990-91.

Bangladesh is vulnerable to natural calamities such as flood and cyclone which cause devastation and death. Crops in millions of acres are destroyed. Fortunately for us, we have had three successive good rice crops and we are on the threshold of self-sufficiency in rice production. But this has created a problem of a different nature. The internal rice market has almost collapsed. The farmers are unlikely to get back their investment, which may have adverse repercussions in the future.

The farmers have problems of storage. In many cases they do not have access to markets, and most importantly they do not have the capacity to hold on to stock for sale at a later date.

These are the realities of agriculture in Bangladesh. However, efforts have been made to overcome many of the problems confronting the farmers. Emphasis has been given to the construction of a network of rural roads to facilitate marketing. The rural markets are also being developed. Import of irrigation equipment and fertilizer has been liberalized. This has given impetus to productivity. The government has plans to develop infrastructure for agrobusiness including export of high-value horticultural products and vegetables. The government has given high priority to crop diversification also.

As elsewhere in the developing world, we need investment for increasing agricultural productivity. In Bangladesh irrigation is the key to future agricultural growth, for which massive investment is required. We also need to have an equitable share of the commodity market. In the long run trade will be more important than aid.

Before concluding, I would like to say that FAO has played its due role in promoting agricultural development all over the world, particularly in the developing countries. I would like to mention one programme which has been a great success in Bangladesh. This is the IPM - Integrated Pest Management. The success of this programme has, on the one hand, considerably reduced the consumption of chemical pesticides and, on the other hand, environmental hazards.

The new agenda is a great challenge for FAO and for all of us. Sustainable agriculture is to us a question of life and death. With no scope for expansion of acreage, we have to preserve the properties of land for our future generations. We are equally interested in the follow-up of the Earth Summit. The ICN is also of interest to us as nutrition is a major problem in my country. I would like to say that my country will play its due role in all these activities.

**John MIRANDA (United States of America):** It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here to discuss Agenda Item 4. I should like to commend FAO and the Secretariat for their excellent work in assessing the state of food and agriculture in the world.

The United States agrees with FAO's overall assessment of the world food situation in its tone of cautious optimism. We believe the document before us is well-balanced and a useful summary of current developments. The extensive regional analyses appearing in this year's report are valuable to economic analysts and policy makers. While we welcome this addition to the report, we note that it comprises about two-thirds of the total report, and we would recommend that this component be streamlined in future reports.

The United States' own assessment of the world cereals supply situation roughly matches FAO's, although there are some differences. Some of the divergence in our estimates is a result of somewhat differing crop and trade year definitions. In its most recent estimates (8 October), the United States found a slightly larger decline in cereal crops during 1991-92, and thus a smaller carry-over into FAO's 1992 crop year.

As for 1993, we see a somewhat greater prospect for a very modest rebuilding of world cereal stocks than FAO does. The reason for our differing views may lie in the fact that FAO sees a recent deterioration in prospects for global production. We do not share this opinion. We recently raised our projections of global wheat and coarse grain prospects. We expect these increases will overcome a slight decline in global rice output.

US estimates are very tentative, but we estimate that by the end of 1992-93 world grain stocks will be closer to 19 percent of trend utilization compared with FAO Secretariat's estimate of about 18 percent. It is important to note that both our estimates are above the minimum level that the FAO Secretariat considers necessary to safeguard world food security.

The US crop production in 1992-93 rebounded significantly from 1991-92 levels. This was due largely to favourable growing conditions and lower acreage reduction programmes. We are forecasting production of wheat, coarse grains and milled rice together for 1992-93 at 335 million tonnes - a strong 21 percent increase over the 1991-92 harvest.

Total US supplies of grain, including stocks carried in from the previous marketing year, are expected to rise 10 percent to 386 million tons. Grain stocks at the end of the 1992/93 marketing year are expected to be 71 million tons, almost 50 percent higher than the ending stocks for 1991/92.

Mr Chairman, the change of administration in the United States raises the question of whether there will be major alterations in the US farm policies. There is no reason to believe that this change will prompt major revisions to US agricultural programmes or policies in the near future. The Farm Bill, which sets US agricultural policy, was rewritten in 1990. We do not expect that it will be reviewed again by the United States Congress until 1995.

In 1992 the international community has been confronted with serious food emergencies in Southern Africa, Somalia, the Horn of Africa and Bosnia Herzegovina. Millions have been the victims of drought and civil strife. Efforts to reach a number of these people have been frustrated by random violence. Despite this, the United States has worked hard, along with the World Food Programme and other donor nations, to move food to those who desperately need it.

We are particularly proud of the United States' massive and timely response to the drought in southern Africa. Thus far we have pledged more than two-thirds of the assistance being sent there. As of the end of September, US food aid under PL. 480 Food for Peace and Section 416 Authorities to Southern Africa total roughly 1.7 million tons. USDA will provide an additional 380 000 tons to the region in our 1993 fiscal year which began October 1st.

We have been pleased by the effective work that FAO's Global Early Warning System programme did in predicting the intensity of the crisis in Southern Africa. We are equally pleased with the fine job that the World Food Programme has done in delivering food aid to the region and preventing what could have been a major catastrophe. In contrast to the overall success in addressing the drought in southern Africa, the international community has not been able to deliver food effectively in the midst of the civil war in Somalia. The United States hopes to be able to move 210 000 tons of commodities into Somalia this fiscal year to help relieve efforts aimed at bringing an end to the terrible suffering caused by the political violence and social chaos there.

The United States also appreciates the tremendous difficulties facing Russia this year. In addition to earlier food assistance, the Department of Agriculture announced in September another US\$250 million in food aid to Russia for the fiscal year 1993. This USDA food aid is additional, that is, it is being provided over and above the levels of food aid normally provided to other parts of the world and not to the PL 480 Food for Peace programme.

The transition from centrally planned economies to market economies in the newly independent States of Eastern Europe, and in other nations across the globe, is among the greatest challenges we face in the world today. It is essential that transition be successful especially in agriculture. Donor nations must continue to look for the best ways they can help to ensure a positive outcome. At the same time, if FAO is to be relevant and effective in the future, it must become an agent for change in agriculture. It must actively promote the growth of market economies in all parts of the world. There is little hope for strong and equitable growth in the world economy

without trade liberalization in agriculture. We have yet to end the gross distortions that damage agricultural trade and ignore the legitimate aspirations of developing nations to become full partners in the prosperity that expanded world trade could bring to us all.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like to briefly comment on three items which the Director-General emphasized during his address to us yesterday morning. The first is to reiterate the utmost importance we all accord to the successful conclusions of the GATT negotiations. The second is our concurrence with the importance of setting up a Secretariat to the International Plant Protection Convention in order to harmonize phytosanitary standards and enhance agricultural trade. Finally regarding the proposal to modify the terms of reference of the International Emergency Food Reserve we believe further discussion is necessary before a decision is reached. In the past the United States has not been convinced that pre-positioning of stocks or the establishment of regional food reserves are effective mechanisms to facilitate a more timely response to global food emergencies. Perhaps this issue should be discussed more fully by the Committee on Food Security before any definitive action is taken. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Miranda, for your substantive intervention. I think we are going to discuss about the International Reserve later.

**Rolf AKESSON (Sweden):** Mr Chairman, we will refrain from commenting extensively on what is actually in the report on this item since generally we agree - along with most other - on the information and judgements made in the report. We also find most of it professional and very useful. That includes the exercise early on page 10 and page 11 which very nicely illustrates the rather large dependence of developing countries on changes in the external environment. Perhaps, Mr Chairman, since this report is an important part of FAO's face to the outside world, as it were, updating would seem to be called for in relation to, for example, the general economic outlook for 1992 and 1993 which now appears a little bit obsolete.

That, Mr Chairman, does not mean that we are entirely pleased with this report in all respects. Information is lacking in some respects and the balance and emphasis perhaps is not always optimal. Yes, it is rather lengthy, as has been pointed out in Mr Hjort's introduction yesterday. Indeed, we would not mind an opportunity to review in a more systematic way the scope and content of this report which, by and large, has followed the same track for quite some time. There are some small contributions already now. We find, for example, there is too much emphasis and data on external debt and very little on the interest amortization on that stock of debt. Further, we find in that same section there is a lack of data on employment, especially in the agricultural sector, and some other main macro-economic variables. Concerning the section on food and agricultural supply situations, I think we would prefer to delete the word "supply" and consequently also deal with the demand side and prices, and consider all aspects of the market.

Much information especially regarding production could perhaps be supplied in an annex in order to keep the main body of the report within reasonable limits.



On external assistance to the agricultural sector and food aid, Mr Chairman, we find a lot of very detailed information, a little bit too much perhaps, and at the same time little, if anything, on its proper context, that is, the total flow of official capital and other flows to developing countries.

The section on fisheries, Mr Chairman, is now mainly a few pages on catch and trade statistics where you, for example, cannot distinguish production from aquaculture from the rest. At least a more complete market analysis would seem to be required here. While on fisheries, Mr Chairman, I too would like to draw your attention to the very disturbing information - I think it is on page 44 - about the difference of no less than US\$22 billion between costs and revenues for global marine fisheries, and that without even taking into account capital costs.

That raises a lot of questions which we would very much like to have clarified, all assumptions and data clearly stated, and all loose ends tied. In order to sort out all the methodological and analytical issues involved here perhaps more than one part of the Secretariat could be involved in such clarification.

Coming to the forestry section, we would also welcome some more market information but I am anxious to state that we note that this year's edition contains a very interesting and useful section on the latest global assessment by the Organization which is quite helpful as well on the RIOH forest principles. We clearly appreciate that and, of course, we also appreciate the whole section on UNCED although we certainly think that Agenda 21, endorsed by practically all Environmental Ministers around the world and a large proportion of Prime Ministers around the world, deserves a little bit more than three lines. In addition, there is the implication for agriculture from the results which should be a little bit more detailed than it is right now.

As to the regional reviews in the report, we find them much broader in scope and less production-oriented which we clearly approve of. We also find it logical and necessary, unfortunately I might add, that Africa takes up the main portion both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The country studies we find quite useful since they are dealing with policy problems at a level familiar to policy-makers but the number to be included in each report could, of course, be discussed.

Those, Mr Chairman, were a few thoughts for consideration in relation to future exercises and reports on this item. Perhaps it would also be worthwhile considering the general design and presentation of the report to make it a little easier to digest, and perhaps also to see whether the topical approach, which is used by some other international organizations, may be applied here as well along with the greater use of annexes to keep the main body of the report within reasonable limits. That is what I have to say, Mr Chairman. Thank you very much for your attention.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que différentes questions, notamment en ce qui concerne les pêches, les forêts, l'environnement, seront examinées ultérieurement par le Conseil à l'occasion de la discussion des autres points de l'ordre du jour.

**Adel El-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God the Merciful and the Compassionate, Mr Chairman, having carefully studied the document under consideration my delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the realistic data contained therein on the State of Food and Agriculture.

We agree with the view that there are many problems with which both developing and developed countries face in the rounds of food and agriculture. We are, however, hopeful that all the efforts made for finding a solution to these problems will be successful and that the support extended to developing countries will be increased to enable them to raise their food and agricultural production.

My delegation is aware of the significant role played by FAO in this respect, a role which we hope will be further enhanced within the available resources. My delegation welcomes also the Director-General's proposal in his opening address, namely the need for supporting the International Emergency Food Reserve. Mr Chairman, in addition to the references in the document to the efforts made by the Near East countries to introduce reforms in the agricultural policies, my delegation, as a member of this group, would like to state that my country has liberalized the prices of most agricultural commodities and is currently pursuing measures such as the following: raising cotton prices to bring them closer to world market prices, replacing sugar cane by sugar beet, privatizing all small agricultural projects, as well as undertaking economic feasibility studies for major products, together with augmenting the capital of agricultural credit institutions so as to enhance their effectiveness.

This policy resulted in increasing the productivity of most agricultural crops such as wheat and rice.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen and will be happy to cooperate with them.

**Geoffrey Lee MILLER (Australia):** Congratulations to the three Vice-Chairmen and appreciation to the Secretariat for its useful information provided to us; my strong applause to the Director-General for his forthright address; my thanks also, Mr Chairman, to my fellow members of the Council.

I sat and listened to a long afternoon yesterday; I listened and learnt. It is always a humbling experience to listen and learn at major FAO meetings such as this one.

We learnt of the natural calamities such as drought, flood, volcanic eruptions and cyclones. This year I have visited one country, the Philippines, that has suffered all four of these calamities in a short space of history. I have also visited a continent, Africa, where record drought - something I am not unfamiliar with in my own country - has wreaked havoc on a human condition already precariously poised on the brink of disaster.

Whilst little can be done to militate against these natural phenomena, once they are upon us much can and is being done to mitigate their effects. Much can and is being done to restore the human condition and to resurrect the environment. Yet we must acknowledge here in this great international institution that, while much is being done, too little is being done. We

leave far too much to the survival instinct of the poorest people, to the resilience of the human spirit. The rest of humanity does too little - too little to demonstrate its humanity.

The great virtue of FAO is that it is a sanctuary; it is a sanctuary within which we can search for the truth. We can search for the truth at least a little removed from the political pressures, the political pressures that outside the FAO will bend even the straightest of truths. Our job is to buttress the truth. We are here to discover the facts, to analyse the forces and to project the trends. Our job inside FAO is to make it a little easier for leaders outside the FAO to choose the path that will genuinely lift the human condition. It is not sufficient for us to bring the facts to light. If we want to influence political events, then we must also bring the facts to life. We must analyse and project them. We must present them in a way that captures people's imagination, that inspires leadership, that stimulates action.

We have already spoken of natural disasters. I have stated as a fact that we do too little genuinely to assist those afflicted by them. Our failings actually precede the disasters. Our greatest failure is our failure to transplant resilience, to transplant the capacity to withstand natural disasters. Transplanting resilience is a goal at the heart of the work of FAO, transplanting resilience and transplanting sustainability.

On that note let me endorse the words of my colleague from India, Dr Gill, who said yesterday, and I quote: "the global challenge lies in recognizing the fact that alleviating poverty is a moral imperative and a prerequisite for environmental sustainability".

Let me also refer you to the data he summarized yesterday and to the excellent summary in the State of Food and Agriculture on the magnitude of the resource transfers from developed to developing countries. The picture is not reassuring. Yet it must be said that our progress in tackling world food and agricultural problems cannot be measured only in terms of the quantity of resources transferred. Probably of greatest importance is the quality of the transfer of these resources.

I am currently examining a series of case studies on the experience of some African countries with rural development assistance over the past two decades. It must be said that the resource transfers were large, often amounting to more than fifty percent of national budgets for sustained periods, but it must also be said that the benefits are often small. The rural development that followed was as resilient as a message written in sand.

The reasons for this are now well understood. I summarized some of them under the theme of the transformation of rural development in my address earlier this year to the World Food Council.

High quality transfers of resources, technology and human capacity are becoming more prevalent. The rural development that follows is as resilient as a message carved in granite. Some of the success stories are documented in The State of Food and Agriculture.

Yesterday we heard modest accounts of outstanding achievements in China, India, Indonesia and Iran, amongst others. We could add Chile and Malaysia. In all these cases the quantity of resource transfers has played a modest role

relative to the quality of those transfers. However, of much greater significance was the quality of the economic and agricultural policy environment into which those resources were transferred.

Let me firmly endorse the concept of new partnerships in development, especially rural development. The Director-General was right yesterday to emphasize the potential for FAO to work with countries to develop their rural policy capacities. Well orchestrated south-south cooperation is one excellent way to achieve this. The Director-General was also right to emphasize the enormous agricultural policy and rural development challenge facing the former centrally-planned economies.

In my paper to a conference in Sweden last month on the development of agricultural policies in these countries I urged them to look beyond the agricultural policies of the industrial countries. In some cases developing countries provide a better model.

On the question of sustainability of our agriculture, forestry and fisheries, I will simply observe that the problems are enormous. Yet as I see what developing and developed countries are doing - and I know what we are doing in my own country - I must also say that the tide has turned. The big question is whether the ebb tide will retreat fast enough. Certainly it is sobering to contemplate one projection, that by the year 2000 there will be 32 percent less soil per person in the world than there was in the early 1980s.

Many of the developing island nations are well short of sustainability. The forests debate later in the week will highlight our deep concern in that area.

Yesterday the Mexican Secretary for Fisheries gave us an excellent catalogue of many of the challenges ahead of us to achieve economic and ecological sustainability in the oceans of the world.

The current situation on African agricultural development is well summarized for us in the splendid document produced by the Secretariat. I endorse the call yesterday from Germany for the reactivation of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development but I have too much respect for the challenge we face in Africa to attempt to unveil any simple truths.

All the good work that we as individuals, we as nations or we as members of FAO might do to alleviate hunger and malnutrition will amount to little unless a crucial missing ingredient is added. That ingredient is high quality economic and agricultural policy leadership by the advanced industrial nations.

Those of us who felt we were part of the golden decade of food and agricultural progress during the 1970s tend to look at the 1980s as a lost decade. Here in the sanctuary of FAO let me state the simple truth that the 1980s was lost because of the quality of the economic and agricultural policies of the advanced nations.

The slow economic recovery that Howard Hjort documented yesterday is directly related to the failure during the 1980s and beyond of economic leadership in some advanced countries. They themselves have sometimes not followed the prescriptions that they would have their multilateral financial institutions insist that others follow.

In agriculture we have witnessed good progress in farm policy reform, yet today we have the spectacle of the entire world trading system being held to ransom for less than two million tonnes of wheat and oil seeds. The fear among some negotiators is that just a little bit of extra discipline might be required in domestic policies, than has already been agreed at home.

As one who has been active - my wife would say hyperactive - in the Uruguay Round, I will not call for an FAO declaration on this subject. An accelerating avalanche of countries led, I am proud to say, by that partnership of nations known as the Cairns Group, is already descending upon the G-7 industrial nations. May that avalanche continue to gather momentum today in Geneva at the GATT meeting in emergency session.

We do understand the domestic, political equation within which leaders of the industrial countries must work. I have considerable sympathy for their predicament, yet we must also be honest about the international political equation. Wealthy countries in which agriculture accounts for less than 5 percent of production and employment are toying with the livelihoods of people in other countries. In many of those other countries agriculture represents more than 50 percent of employment and production. The votes of a few hundred thousand are being valued above the livelihoods of a few hundred millions.

I would like to conclude, Mr Chairman and fellow members of the Council, on a strongly positive note. At this point the failure of the Uruguay Round is too absurd to seriously contemplate. It will be brought to a successful conclusion, though not without protracted difficulty.

The prospective outcome is modest, but the benefits will become clear by the middle of the decade, and the developing countries will be the principal beneficiaries. Economic growth will also accelerate slowly but by the middle of the decade economic development will be sustainably strong. It is salutary to remind ourselves that less than half of the prospective economic growth through the decade will come from the OECD countries. Some 25 percent of world growth will come from Southeast Asia and China. The remainder will come largely from Latin America, India and the Middle East. By the end of the decade much of the South/South cooperation will be between North/North countries. Serious economic and agricultural problems will continue in much of Africa amongst many, but not all, of the former centrally planned economies and for individual countries in other continents. The long-awaited second revolution in agricultural technology will progress slowly but will also gather momentum. It will increasingly provide us with higher productivity and sustainability.

The likelihood of this positive scenario for the state of food and agriculture unfolding within the decade will depend on the leadership of organizations like FAO. The lost decade of the 1980s has left its legacy. We have experienced underinvestment in agricultural technology and in farming itself for a complete decade. Rural people will be distrustful of markets for a long time to come because they have been badly burned by them in the past. Capacity to respond to new incentives may be limited. Consequently food shortages could again emerge during the post-Uruguay Round decade. The policies of the advanced nations will need to be considerably more flexible than those which have recently been adopted. There will be a need for a continuing special focus in Africa on the economies in transition, on the developing island countries, on some other countries in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East,

and on forestry, fisheries and sustainability of new technology, and, of course, we must further strengthen our capacity to provide expeditious emergency and humanitarian relief. Whatever the state of food and agriculture, we know that we must expect the unexpected. We must have the versatility to cope with whatever emerges in this constantly challenging world of food and agriculture. More importantly, we must commit ourselves to the search for lasting solutions, solutions which increase the resilience and self-reliance of our fellow human beings, solutions which are sensitive to the legitimate social and environmental aspirations of people.

**Ms Katalin BAKK (Hungary):** Mr Chairman, my delegation is pleased to have you as Chairman. I should also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairpersons on their election.

First of all, I should like to commend the Secretariat for having submitted to the Council a realistic and clear assessment of the current world food situation. I am afraid this agenda item will not lose its timeliness for many years to come. We feel that the cautious optimism referred to in the document before us is justified, though at the same time we would like to voice our views that the bulk of today's problems stem from constraint in access to food rather than supply. The overall growth in agricultural and food production has shown some signs of recovery and in this context the continuous decline in per capita food production in some sub-regions is more than regrettable.

The Hungarian delegation welcomes all references made in the document pointing at some promising developments likely to occur in the near future, for example the slight recovery expected in agricultural commodities' prices and so forth and the greater emphasis to be put on sustainable development and environmental protection.

This delegation never fails to note the great impact world agricultural trade development bears on production. At this juncture we voice our disappointment that the GATT Uruguay talks faltered and we welcome the renewed hope for a successful outcome. The four-track work plan seems to us an initiative which might yield some result provided all negotiating parties approach the subject-matters with good-will and flexibility. The reduction of support measures distorting both production and trade are of common interest to all countries.

Taking the attention attached to former centrally planned countries into consideration, please allow me to make some brief comments on Hungarian agriculture.

Without going into details as far as the data and figures mentioned in relevant chapters go, I would only mention that the trends pointed out therein have been continued in 1992 and neither in production nor in consumption has a reversing of main trends been experienced.

To start with, I would like to state that the basic element of the agricultural policy of the Hungarian Government is the quick restructuring of land ownership. The objectives in this field are still unequivocal and clear: that is, Hungarian agriculture, land included, will have to be reorganized, putting it on the basis of private ownership.

Some uncertainties have begun to prevail in Hungarian agricultural policies on the issue of farm-structure. That is to say, in the meantime it became evident that it was impossible to turn our agriculture in a short time into a farmer-type agriculture with an efficient scale of economy.

During the two years which have elapsed since the change of regime, such a transformation in production structure has turned out to be more time-consuming than originally supposed to be. The development of family farms in Hungary has been made more difficult by the disastrous agricultural market situation and by the lack of a peasant population capable of showing an affinity to enterprise-type farming. This situation was responsible for the unsettled problems of agricultural structure, while the Government stuck to its basic values, giving priority to family farms. Solution to agro-structural problems would thus be left to market competition as soon as suitable frameworks for market economy were established.

Simultaneously with the settlement of land property, the other basic element of Hungarian agricultural policy is the establishment of modern market conditions in agriculture. Resulting from the natural and social features of agriculture, Hungary, similarly to developed Western countries, sees fit to regulate agro-markets. Contrary to most OECD countries, however, we would indeed like to regulate and not subsidize our agriculture.

As a matter of fact, my economically-exhausted country cannot afford to use up resources outside agriculture in order to keep internal prices artificially high. The basic objective of Hungarian agricultural regulations can therefore only be to balance and even out agricultural cyclical fluctuations.

Taking into consideration the actual economic situation of the country and the traditional role Hungarian agriculture has ever played in the economy, we cannot allow our agriculture to become totally dependent on other economic branches. On the other hand, Hungarian agriculture will have to contribute to the development of the national economy. The country's reserves have been drained. However, in this situation the role played by the Hungarian agro-system in the national economy significantly exceeds that played in other countries at a similar development level.

It is worth mentioning that Hungarian agricultural trade would like to achieve expansion chiefly in European markets. After the collapse of the Soviet empire, more than 90 percent of Hungarian agricultural export has been directed toward European countries, because of the extremely high cost of the access to overseas - mainly Japanese and North-American - markets which would be involved for a land-locked country.

As a result of former quantity-oriented agricultural policies, the productive structure lost touch with economic realities as well as productive traditions. This deformed structure conformed to the one-sided large-scale production and to the market conditions of the former COMECON.

Adverse processes within the change of regime gained momentum for two reasons. Firstly, simultaneously with the shift to market economy consumers, price subsidy had to be discontinued and the price system liberalized, engineering a substantial decline of domestic markets and food consumption. Secondly, subsidies formerly serving agricultural investment and operations had also partially been terminated.

Our policy objective is the development of an internationally competitive agriculture. Consequently, the export-oriented development of agricultural production and an adequately changed marketing policy has to be reckoned with. New market conditions comprise the expansion of access opportunities to foreign markets and an adjustment of production structures to market requirements. The collapse of COMECON and the dwindling of East-European markets call for exports expansion of our foreign trade with developed market countries.

Intensive talks on foreign-trade expansion have also been had with the European Free Trade Association and its member states. These talks regrettably dragged on and have not so far produced tangible results.

From mid-1991 on, our efforts to broaden Eastern market opportunities for our agricultural products have grown ever stronger. Negotiations have been conducted with member states and other republics of the former Soviet Union to raise the volume of Hungarian exports, backed up by official guarantees.

All these efforts have led to a better than expected agricultural export situation. In 1991 our total export reached US\$2.7 billion and the net balance was plus 1.7 billion. In the first half of 1992 the export grew further to US\$1.3 billion, i.e. 200 million over the respective figure of the previous year.

No further shoring up of our agricultural exports will be possible unless Hungarian export commodities comply with both strict EC quality regulations and market requirements. The association agreement with EC and the intended expansion of trade with the European Free Trade Association emphasize qualitative requirements on agro-products and result in a keener competition in the markets.

I should fail in my duties if I left the assistance we received from international organizations, FAO included, without proper acknowledgement. At the same time, however, it should be emphatically stated that this assistance has been rather modest in financial terms and has focused on low-cost and high-know-how missions of well-reputed and highly knowledgeable experts. This remark seems to be relevant to my delegation to reiterate our belief that any anxiety about the alleged re-channelling by FAO and other agencies to former Eastern-Bloc states is misplaced.

At the same time my delegation very much welcomes the statement by the Director-General yesterday concerning the expansion of the Regional Office of Europe. Staff and resources of this office are at a bare minimum.

In conclusion, allow me, Mr Chairman, to make a final remark. Changes in Hungarian agricultural and food management do not adversely affect food security in my country. Luckily the Latin saying nomen est omen does not refer to Table 16 on page 129 of the document before us and I am only happy to report that people in Hungary are not necessarily hungry.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo)** : Je voudrais réagir en quelques mots à la déclaration australienne. Nous apprécions à leur juste valeur la franchise, la clarté et les bonnes intentions dont était empreinte l'intervention de cette délégation.



Prenant la parole pour la première fois d'une manière formelle, permettez à la délégation congolaise, qui participe ici à la 102ème session du Conseil de la FAO, de vous dire tout son plaisir de vous voir présider aux travaux de cet important organe de la FAO.

Notre délégation saisit cette même première occasion pour adresser aux trois vice-présidents élus au cours de cette session et qui, elle en est sûre, ne manqueront pas d'apporter leurs concours, ses vives et chaleureuses félicitations; pour sa part notre délégation se déclare prête à collaborer avec tout le bureau afin de contribuer tant soit peu au succès de cette session du Conseil.

A travers vous, nous aimerions remercier le Directeur général de la FAO pour son importante allocution inaugurale d'hier matin et dont les échos résonnent encore à nos oreilles en raison de sa pertinence.

Au titre du point 4 de notre ordre du jour, le Directeur général adjoint de la FAO, M. Hjort nous a présenté hier avec brio les différents documents préparés par le Secrétariat pour nous aider à examiner la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1992. Nous le remercions pour cet exposé introductif et tenons sans démagogie à féliciter sincèrement les auteurs de ces différents documents pour la haute qualité et la profondeur de leur teneur.

Le document principal CL 102/2, ses suppléments, additifs et corrigendum traitent et embrassent plusieurs sujets sur lesquels nous aurions bien voulu nous appesantir mais pour tenir la promesse de brièveté que nous avons faite mais sans toutefois sacrifier l'essentiel de notre message, nous limiterons volontiers notre intervention à quelques aspects du sujet à l'examen.

Ainsi pour l'avoir analysé, nous sommes d'avis avec le contenu du tableau d'ensemble qui ressort du constat fait sur le panorama économique mondial et cela en particulier avec les tendances signalées dans la première partie, paragraphe 1 à 42 du document principal et faisant état de l'insuffisance des niveaux de la reprise escomptée pour l'année en cours à travers les différentes régions du monde après le conflit armé du Golfe notamment en ce qui concerne la consommation, les investissements, l'emploi pour ne pas dire le chômage, les ventes, la dette, les taux d'intérêts élevés de certains pays développés.

Pour en venir à la seconde section du document principal traitant de la production agricole et alimentaire, nous nous contenterons également de faire quelques brèves observations. Bien que la plupart des paramètres pour apprécier la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde reposent sur les indices liés aux céréales, constatant que les céréales ont, au sein de cette assemblée, plus d'un défenseur, nous souhaiterions consacrer nos propos aux autres cultures vivrières de base et aux produits agricoles tropicaux. A ce titre, comme nous l'indiquons tantôt, l'insuffisance de croissance de la production des plantes -racines, légumineuses et plantes oléagineuses n'a pas été sans effet négatif sur la situation alimentaire de nos pays tributaires desdites cultures pour leur alimentation de base.

Quant aux principales cultures agricoles non vivrières, tels le café, le cacao, le thé et autres, nous aimerions les traiter dans le cadre du commerce agricole international.

Après la décennie des années quatre-vingt dont tout le monde s'est enfin accordé à reconnaître qu'elle a été une décennie perdue pour les pays en développement, ainsi que nous l'avons déjà dit en d'autres occasions, nous avons quelques espoirs pour la décennie quatre-vingt-dix, à commencer par l'espoir de paix, du reste conforté par les espérances engendrées par le vent de démocratisation de la vie politique qui s'est levé et souffle tant au Nord qu'au Sud. Mais en toute honnêteté, devant la réalité qui prévaut, force nous est de constater que les choses n'ont en fait fondamentalement pas changé. En effet, comme hier encore, le climat de paix demeure fragile et, dans certains pays du Nord comme d'autres du Sud, de nombreux conflits internes continuent à menacer dangereusement l'intégrité d'Etats où le risque d'implosion n'est plus à écarter.

Malgré la baisse de la tension internationale et l'instauration du nouveau climat de paix, nous n'avons pas pour autant enregistré le transfert vers le secteur productif des ressources naguère consacrées aux budgets militaires. Comme hier, l'objectif de 0,7 pour cent du PNB que les pays industrialisés devraient affecter à l'aide publique au développement des pays du Tiers Monde reste encore inférieur à 0,5 pour cent.

Tout comme notre collègue et ami de la Côte d'Ivoire qui est intervenu hier après-midi, nous pensons que l'échec momentané des négociations globales du GATT est préoccupant à plus d'un titre pour tous les hommes épris de paix et de justice.

Ainsi que tout un chacun le sait, confrontés aux puissants blocages que sont la dette extérieure et son service, la chute des cours mondiaux des matières premières, la dépréciation des termes de l'échange, nos pays en développement pauvres ont perdu leur éligibilité aux crédits commerciaux et aux crédits d'aide proprement dite à des conditions de faveur; et dans le même temps, la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'ajustement structurel, loin de représenter la panacée, la solution idéale, a plutôt contribué à raviver les tensions sociales, sources d'instabilité politique dans nos pays. Devant ce sinistre tableau, vous comprendrez tous dans toute sa plénitude l'intérêt avec lequel nous attendons la poursuite rapide et surtout l'aboutissement heureux des négociations du GATT.

Par ailleurs, ainsi que cela ressort des documents à l'examen, tout comme la situation économique désastreuse dont nous venons de parler plus haut, la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle de l'Afrique, notre continent, n'est guère plus brillante aujourd'hui qu'elle ne l'était l'an dernier et, dans de nombreuses zones de notre région, les perspectives alimentaires restent préoccupantes. Pour s'en convaincre, il suffit de citer comme exemple la situation qui prévaut dans les pays de la corne de l'Afrique et de l'Afrique australe.

Devant cette précarité de la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle de notre région, nous reconnaissons en toute honnêteté et modestie que les efforts entrepris ces dernières années par nos pays dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de la politique d'ajustement structurel pour combattre la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté n'ont apparemment pas eu le succès que nous en attendions.

Par son ampleur, la malnutrition qui prévaut dans le monde en développement rappelle que, même en période d'abondance d'aliments, l'accroissement des disponibilités alimentaires n'est utile que s'il s'accompagne d'un accès

économique équitable aux approvisionnements qui, seuls, contribuent à garantir la sécurité alimentaire et à réduire la sous-alimentation; ce qui suppose l'existence d'un certain pouvoir d'achat réel pour chaque citoyen en âge de produire et cela nous ramène, une fois de plus, à la nécessité d'instaurer un nouvel ordre économique plus juste. C'est convaincu de cette nécessité de l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique plus juste que le Congo, notre pays, déçu par l'insuffisance des performances du secteur étatique des exploitations industrielles, s'est tourné depuis quelque temps vers son agriculture paysanne. Malgré les échecs constatés, nous engageons tous les pays de notre région et ceux en développement des autres régions à persévérer dans l'effort en vue de la promotion de l'agriculture, du développement de la pêche, de l'exploitation et de la conservation des forêts ainsi que de la transformation, la conservation et la commercialisation de leurs produits.

En parallèle avec les efforts propres à déployer par les pays en développement, nous exhortons la FAO à jouer le rôle régulateur qui lui revient dans la mise au point des programmes d'ajustement structurel afin que l'on tienne compte, lors de leur élaboration, de l'élément sécurité alimentaire.

La FAO doit continuer à jouer un rôle auprès du monde industrialisé et des institutions financières internationales pour les amener à réserver à nos politiques de modernisation de l'agriculture un soutien plus actif et privilégié.

A ce titre, nous aimerions épinglez le plaidoyer fait par le Directeur général de la FAO le 20 juillet 1992 à Accra, capitale du Ghana, devant la plénière de la 17ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique dans son allocution inaugurale. Par ailleurs, les ayant appuyées avec force dès qu'elles avaient été avancées par le Secrétariat, c'est naturellement avec satisfaction que nous avons enregistré l'intention du Directeur général de la FAO de reconduire en vue de leur mise en oeuvre toute la série de mesures visant à renforcer l'efficacité de la RAIU. Nous nous félicitons en particulier de voir reconduite l'idée du prépositionnement des stocks d'aliments soit dans les pays à risque soit dans les ports des pays donateurs, afin d'accélérer les livraisons.

Monsieur le Président, tout au long de ces dernières années, avec tous les autres Etats Membres de notre Organisation, nous avons exhorté tous ceux qui avaient des arriérés de contributions à s'en acquitter pour permettre à la FAO de remplir comme il se doit son mandat; notre appel s'adressait en particulier au plus grand bailleur de l'Organisation. Aujourd'hui, ayant appris que ce dernier a commencé à régler ses arriérés, il n'est que justice pour nous de nous en féliciter et de l'inciter, ainsi que tous les autres retardataires dont d'ailleurs notre propre pays, à faire tout ce qui leur est possible pour mettre leur situation financière à jour vis-à-vis de la FAO.

C'est sur ces quelques mots d'encouragement à aller de l'avant que nous aimerions ici mettre fin à notre intervention tout en vous remerciant de votre attention.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant du Congo de son intervention très précise et concrète, notamment en ce qui concerne les réserves alimentaires internationales d'urgence.

**Carlos BASCO (Argentina):** La delegación de Argentina agradece a la Secretaria por la preparación del documento CL 102/2 y expresa su conformidad con los párrafos dedicados a la Argentina en dicho documento. Aprovecha también para recordar los cambios en la política económica puestos en práctica por el Gobierno argentino.

Las medidas adoptadas se basan, Sr. Presidente, en una mayor apertura y en la desregulación de la economía para aumentar la competitividad. Para el sector agrícola la desregulación significó el final de la intervención del Estado en actividades comerciales y productivas y la desaparición de organismos oficiales dedicados a regular la producción y prestar determinados servicios. Se está privatizando la infraestructura de almacenamiento de granos y se eliminaron impuestos a la exportación. El programa económico implica un cambio radical de las condiciones generales de la producción agropecuaria. Sin embargo, los resultados positivos de dichos cambios dependen crucialmente de la evolución del comercio mundial de productos agrícolas. Todos los esfuerzos y sacrificios realizados por el Programa de Ajuste Estructural serán inútiles si no cambian "las políticas" de subsidios a las exportaciones y de apoyo interno a la producción agrícola de algunos países desarrollados.

La falta de acuerdo entre la Comunidad Económica y los Estados Unidos en la Ronda Uruguay del GATT constituye un escollo insalvable para que esos empeños redunden en resultados positivos para los productores agropecuarios eficientes, como los son los de Argentina.

Asimismo, nuestra delegación expresa su inquietud ante la defensa de las medidas de apoyo a la producción agrícola en algunos países desarrollados, que dicen fundamentarse en políticas de defensa de los productores agropecuarios, pero que parecen más bien enmascarar políticas de defensa de productores de agroquímicos y de maquinaria agrícola.

Nuestra delegación aprovecha para recordar las gestiones efectuadas tanto en el marco del Grupo de Cairns como del Grupo Latino de dicho Grupo, dirigida a los principales países desarrollados para la finalización exitosa de la Ronda Uruguay que se dará a través de la aprobación del documento Dunkel.

La delegación argentina, por otra parte, desea expresar algunos comentarios con relación a los párrafos del documento referidos al MERCOSUR y solicita que estos comentarios sean registrados en el marco de esta deliberación.

En la página 117 del documento CL 102/2 se presenta un recuadro sobre MERCOSUR donde se presentan los avances del MERCOSUR. El Mercado Común del Sur conformado por Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay y Uruguay.

La organización del MERCOSUR tiene un subgrupo de trabajo para los temas de política agrícola y agroindustrial que está analizando los temas correspondientes, que son: reconversión; política tecnológica; armonización de política agrícola; competitividad; pequeños y medianos productores; sostenibilidad y barreras al comercio.

Si bien la Constitución de MERCOSUR constituye un importante desafío para los cuatro países miembros, el espíritu que predomina en las negociaciones es el de colaboración y complementación y no el de competencia como podría surgir del documento preparado por la FAO.

Los cuatro países son productores y exportadores de productos agrícolas. Hoy en día ser exportador de productos agrícolas de clima templado y tropical, sin subsidios a la producción y a la exportación en un mundo plagado por la política de subsidios de algunos países desarrollados significa ser muy competitivos al nivel mundial. Por lo tanto, los esfuerzos de MERCOSUR están más dirigidos a la complementación y a mejorar la competitividad internacional de los cuatro países y a competir entre ellos.

Ello no significa descuidar la situación de algunos productores en algunas zonas de cada uno de los cuatro países que pueden requerir algún tipo de reconversión, pero esta necesidad de reconversión no sólo está vinculada con el MERCOSUR, sino también con las políticas de apertura general de las economías que han comenzado a practicar los cuatro países del MERCOSUR. Por un lado, se están estudiando las políticas de reconversión y, por otro, se está en el proceso de identificación de los productores aceptados en los cuatro países.

MERCOSUR representa una gran oportunidad para el desarrollo de la agricultura de los cuatro países, pero dicho desarrollo se producirá en el marco de la inserción plena de MERCOSUR en la economía mundial, donde quiere competir con una producción sin subsidios en el marco del comercio mundial agropecuario, libre también de subsidios.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor delegado, por su intervención y por las informaciones a propósito del MERCOSUR.

**Murray CARDIFF (Canada):** Thank you, Mr Chairman, for this opportunity to address the Council. Canada views the Report on The State of Food and Agriculture as a valuable monitoring device on world agricultural output identifying not only important trends but priorities. Thus, Canada considers it to be a very important activity of the FAO and is very supportive of its work. Canada would like to compliment the Secretariat on an informative and balanced report.

World economic prospects appear mixed, but Canada, in line with North American forecasts, hopes for an economic recovery in 1993. If this should occur there should be a positive spill-over for developing countries.

The first decline in world food production in almost a decade raises serious concerns despite the progress observed in recent years. As has been mentioned, the impact of conditions of drought and civil strife is of particular concern for African countries. This is compounded by the fact that several large countries such as India and China had declining food production per capita. As well, ending stocks of cereals in 1991-92 are projected to be down substantially from last year. Yet some countries continue to export cereals using large export subsidies despite these low stock levels. In these circumstances any production shortfall in a major producing region in 1993 could seriously affect prices and food availability in developing countries.

The weakness in agricultural trade observed in 1991 is symptomatic of many of the difficulties of this market with widespread restrictions on trade. There is also serious concern for declining commodity prices, which are intensified by the increasing domestic and export subsidies for agriculture. World prices fell in 1991 for many agricultural commodities (especially cocoa, sugar and

coffee). As a major exporter of farm products, Canada is well aware that these subsidies and unfair trade practices continue to hurt export earnings, particularly for the agriculture sector in developing countries. Canada considers that, especially under present circumstances, an agreement at the GATT is imperative to improve world prices and ensure incomes in the agricultural sector come from the marketplace, not government treasuries, and to guarantee that production and trade is based on market-driven factors.

Canada shares the concern about the drop in the commitments and disbursements of external lending to agriculture in 1990 versus 1989. While there is pressure to restrain government budget deficits in most developed countries, the problems faced by developing countries have not diminished.

Canada has been a notable victim of the low catch rates for high seas fisheries described in this report. This highlights the need for international cooperation to establish rules to which all fishing nations will adhere. Consequently, we favour FAO activities in this regard which we will be considering later in this session.

The inclusion in the report of a reference to UNCED and the non-legally-binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests is particularly welcome. The forest principles represent the first international acknowledgement of the need to act together to ensure multiple values of the forests and a balance between environmental and developmental considerations. Canada urges all nations to implement these principles according to their own sovereign contexts. Canada is presently engaged in implementing the UNCED forest principles, primarily through its new national forestry strategy, which unites federal, provincial and territorial governments with a wide range of forestry stakeholders.

Canada believes that it is equally important that the world community strengthen the international dialogue on forests. FAO has an important, supportive role to play in promoting and strengthening the forests dialogue post-UNCED.

Like earlier speakers, Canada is deeply disturbed about the continued weakness in the African economy resulting in a decline in per capita incomes in 1991, the fifth consecutive year. The growth in food production in 1990-91 registers further reduction in per capita production. In 1992, there has been a severe drought in Southern African countries and the growth in 1991-92 production is unlikely to make much of an impact on the high proportion of the population already suffering from undernourishment. The African situation provides a challenge to all member countries of the FAO. Canada has taken leadership in providing debt relief for many of the poorer African countries. Notwithstanding external pressures upon developing countries, it should be recalled, as other speakers have done, that countries must persist in their efforts to overcome domestic structural impediments.

Canada is very encouraged by the improvement in the economies of many countries in Latin American and the Caribbean, with the first increase in per capita GNP growth in four years. The very small increase in per capita food production in 1991 with only a small increase for the entire decade is worrisome given the large land and natural resource bases in many countries in this region.

Canada is encouraged by the introduction of economic reforms in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors in a number of the countries in this region, which bodes well for future improvements in the agricultural sector.

Canada recognizes the difficult economic situation in many countries in the Near East and North Africa Region. Despite the excellent crops in North Africa and good crops in several other countries, there were drought problems in Yemen and Jordan and a severe decline in Iraq.

Nevertheless we are encouraged by the adoption of more market-oriented policies in several of the North African countries which should provide better opportunity for future development.

The complex task of transforming the economies in Eastern Europe and the former USSR to a more market-oriented approach is not easy, as the report notes. Furthermore, the sharp decline in food and non-food production in 1991 has severely strained the commitment to reform. Canada is encouraged by the expectation of increased cereal production in 1992, and will continue to provide assistance through loans and credit guarantees.

With respect to the Director-General's remarks on the IEFR yesterday, we note that the Director-General himself has acknowledged the absence of consensus on his proposal which dates back to 1983. Clearly, this continued existence of divergent views needs to be reconciled in the appropriate forum before we can give further consideration to this issue.

In summary, this report provides us with a number of important reminders.

First, it is critical to the improvement of the agricultural sectors, particularly in developing countries, that there be a rapid and successful completion to the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations. This will strengthen and stabilize world commodity prices. More importantly, it will complement the structural adjustment reforms now ongoing in many countries. In this way, countries would be making investment decisions based on international market process that are determined by market forces, and not by national treasuries.

Second, while progress has been made in recent years in some countries to increase the availability and distribution of basic food supplies, there are serious problems remaining in many others. Thus, there is an urgent requirement for the continuation of the types of programmes sponsored by the FAO.

Third, despite the period of restraint in government spending in many developed countries, the report emphasizes the need for all countries to continue to provide assistance and develop more innovative and creative means to increase food production in the world's most undernourished countries.

In meeting this challenge, Canada attaches considerable importance to the FAO's work in relation to the environment and sustainable development. In particular, Canada supports concerted action following up on the biodiversity convention, climate change and relevant UNCED Agenda 21 Chapters.

Canada is working in a number of areas to focus support for dealing with problems of agriculture and the environment.

Minister McKnight, our Minister of Agriculture, was the keynote speaker at the World Food Day celebrations in the United Nations held in October 1991. The theme, "Trees for Life", stressed the linkages and interdependence between environment, climate change, forest and tree cover, farming practices and sustainable development. Just recently, Canada was honoured in hosting the 1992 World Food Day in the historic setting of the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City in the same location where the FAO was founded nearly 50 years ago in 1945. The theme, food and nutrition, stressed the important linkages between food production, healthy food practices and standards, and nutrition.

This successful event underlined the basic issues of food security, nutrition and the need for international cooperation; it demonstrated the close international cooperation between levels of government and non-governmental organizations; and it promoted the International Conference on Nutrition to be held in Rome this December. A proposal to hold a 50th anniversary FAO event in Quebec City in 1995 was made on the occasion of World Food Day. We are now giving consideration on how best to advance this matter.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant du Canada de son intervention et j'en profite pour le remercier également de l'invitation adressée au Directeur général et à moi-même, en qualité de Président indépendant du Conseil, à participer à la cérémonie et à la très intéressante réunion qui s'est tenue à Québec au Château de Frontenac à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, dans la perspective d'organiser en 1995 à l'occasion du 50ème anniversaire de la FAO, une cérémonie toute spéciale à l'endroit où fut signé l'acte de naissance de notre organisation. La journée au Château de Frontenac a été très utile et les contacts que nous avons eus ont été particulièrement fructueux. Encore merci à la Représentation du Canada pour l'organisation de cette journée à Québec.

D. Paul VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): Mr Chairman, after the EEC statement I will restrict myself to focusing on a few points of interest in the documents. Firstly, the situation on capital flows to the agricultural sector, which is shown in the table in the document, in causing concern. From the tables we learn that for the past four years private investment in agriculture has been negative, meaning a kind of disinvestment. Furthermore, official flows have a tendency to drop, both bilaterally and multilaterally. This, Mr Chairman, must be seen as a very negative development since investing in the agriculture of developing countries is more necessary than ever. Problems of land degradation, wasteful use of resources, slow recovery of exports, all these problems need capital investments if they are to be solved. This must be done if developing countries want to keep up their food production and if they want to compete in a world trading system that is going to be liberated in the near future. Urgent attention to this problem is necessary and we urge that this issue of agricultural investment be made a priority in the coming years.

Secondly we would like to express our appreciation for the attention FAO is giving to policy matters. Especially, setting up a vision which course export-oriented and food-importing countries should take, deserves our full support. We agree, we should stress the need for developing countries to make structural adjustments so as to strengthen their diversified export base, their processing capabilities and their institutional base supporting food production.



Thirdly, when assessing the developments in the diverse regions of the world, we must conclude that growth of agricultural production per capita in Africa is negative for the majority of the countries although a number of positive examples can be mentioned. In addition, the situation for a considerable number of countries in Asia and the Pacific does not show any substantial progress. We think this constitutes a serious matter which should be analysed in depth. However, in the analyses given in this document we have trouble in finding any substantial clues as to the cause of the stagnant developments in many developing countries. Therefore, we ask the Secretariat to focus more on in-depth analyses of longer term developments in the world's agriculture so that we can better assess the data supplied in the document.

Fourthly, the regional reviews which are, in our view, most valuable provide us with a clear picture of what the main changes are in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East and North Africa. The Netherlands delegation is pleased to note that in sub-Saharan Africa, although the overall situation is clearly feeble, a number of countries have taken steps to prepare documents on agricultural development policies or to set up guidelines for rural development. This development is very much supported by my delegation and we would like to see the agricultural strategies set up by many more countries. We would also like to stress that multilateral organizations should encourage this approach to developing countries.

Finally, the last part of the document is dedicated to regional assessments and national case studies. We endorse the fact that the Secretariat is continuing the development of policy analysis and policy advice. We would certainly like to see more of that. However, compared to the wealth of data and insights into production, trade and policy data, analyses of environmental issues get too little attention. With regard to FAO's valuable advisory and analytical capacity in the field of sustainable development we would like to see more environmental analyses and advice in the document, The State of Food and Agriculture.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, the document touches upon a couple of highly important issues which give additional value to the documents. In particular, we see the results of them reflected in next year's Programme of Work and Budget and Medium-Term Plan.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Señor Presidente, comenzaremos por manifestar aquí nuestro total apoyo al señor Director General de nuestra Organización, Dr. Edouard Saouma, por las ideas y conceptos contenidos en su declaración ante este Consejo.

Estamos conscientes de que la actuación de la FAO, bajo su esclarecida dirección, en el campo de la cooperación técnica a nivel internacional, ha sido fundamental para el logro de los objetivos que en este momento reclama la solidaridad humana frente a aquellos pueblos hermanos, dominados por la pobreza, impotentes por sí solos para superar el atraso y la miseria y su incapacidad para producir aún lo indispensable para su supervivencia.

Y es que, es la FAO la única Organización que tiene claro el concepto de que es a través de la autosuficiencia como puede superarse el subdesarrollo.

Es por ello por lo que es precisamente su Programa de Cooperación Técnica aunado al Programa de Campo los que mayores beneficios rinde a los países del Tercer Mundo, así como a los países en vías de desarrollo.

Queremos, no sólo manifestar nuestro pleno respaldo a estos programas, sino además solicitar de este Consejo una declaración expresa al respecto.

Aplicados sistemáticamente estos programas con los principios de la agricultura sostenible será posible llevar a la realidad, la superación del estado de miseria de muchas comunidades a las cuales no les esperaríamos de otra manera que el destino de la inanición.

Deseamos expresar también nuestro apoyo a lo expuesto por la delegación de México en relación a la extensión del Programa Pesquero en sus nuevas dimensiones dentro del marco normativo internacional de los mares y el avance de la tecnología en el campo de la actividad pesquera. Sobre todo por cuanto ello redundaría en la satisfacción de las necesidades alimentarias mediante un mayor aprovechamiento de los recursos del mar. Debemos, sin embargo, repetir aquí lo que ya anotáramos en la reunión de Consulta respecto a la práctica abusiva del sistema de la llamada Pesca de Arrastre, la que aún persiste en algunos países, Venezuela entre ellos, y cuyo perjuicio es por demás conocido.

De la misma manera hemos de denunciar la persistencia del proteccionismo que se traduce en medidas obstaculizadoras, las cuales limitan el racional aprovechamiento de los recursos marinos y constituye barreras ficticias, amparadas en razones de aparente conservacionismo.

Queremos dar una vez más nuestro apoyo a la proposición sobre la elaboración de un código de conducta para la práctica de la pesca responsable.

Señor Presidente, así mismo queremos apoyar la exposición del distinguido Embajador de Cuba al rechazar la aplicación de la Ley Torricelli por considerar una extensión abusiva que atenta contra la soberanía de los países al amenazar con represalias a quienes tengan relaciones comerciales con Cuba.

Nuestro gobierno por medio del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, ha expresado ya su protesta frente a esta Ley Torricelli que consideramos violatoria de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, así como, de la Carta de la Organización de Estados Americanos, la cual en su artículo 16 proscribía el uso de la coerción económica salvo en casos de legítima defensa, y prohíbe la adopción de restricciones de medidas discriminatorias que obstaculicen el comercio internacional.

Por lo demás, señor Presidente, en relación con los asuntos que nos conciernen en este Consejo, nosotros esperamos que en el inmediato futuro sea realidad la práctica y el desarrollo de la agricultura sostenible que consideramos será la única manera de poder salir del atraso y del subdesarrollo aquellos países cuya necesidad no puede ser lograda sino a través de la ayuda que se le preste en vías de la cooperación de los países que pueden hacerlo.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vais demander à tous les délégués qui ont un texte écrit, en tout ou en partie, de bien vouloir faire parvenir une copie aux interprètes par l'intermédiaire de nos charmantes messagères, de façon à faciliter le travail des interprètes et leur permettre une traduction plus soignée des interventions. Je vous remercie à l'avance de votre collaboration qui

permettra de faciliter une tâche toujours extrêmement délicate et difficile de traduction de la pensée des intervenants.

**M. Gualbert RAZANAJATOVO (Madagascar):** Je vous remercie, Monsieur Le Président, de nous avoir accordé la parole. La délégation malgache est heureuse de vous voir à la Présidence de cette importante session du Conseil. Elle vous assure de son soutien et adresse par la même occasion ses compliments aux trois Vice-Présidents. Nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention le discours d'ouverture du Directeur général et nous en avons tenu compte dans nos différentes interventions.

La délégation malgache félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document CL 102/2 et son supplément 1. Compte tenu de la pertinence de l'approche qui est faite du sujet, nous allons formuler nos commentaires en nous conformant à l'agencement des chapitres tels qu'ils figurent dans le document de référence.

Le panorama économique mondial n'est pas très encourageant, mais ne semble pas désespéré, car l'on prévoit que la croissance économique devrait marquer une légère reprise en 1993, aussi bien dans les pays en voie de développement que dans les pays industrialisés. Or, le Secrétariat nous indique que, d'après la Banque mondiale, une croissance d'un point de pourcentage dans les pays de l'OCDE soutenu sur 3 ans, entraînerait une augmentation des exportations des pays en voie de développement de 60 milliards de dollars par an, et il est établi que dans des nombreux pays en voie de développement, la croissance économique est étroitement liée à la croissance des exportations. Pour les pays non exportateurs de pétrole, la croissance en volume des exportations devrait être appréciable en 1993 et le pouvoir d'achat en connaîtra une amélioration sensible.

Malheureusement, ces prévisions ne concernent pas la plupart des pays africains exportateurs de produits tels que le café et le cacao dont les prix sont en constante diminution.

Dans ces mêmes pays, l'accroissement de l'encours de la dette épuise les disponibilités en devises, et hypothèque gravement leur capacité d'importation des denrées de première nécessité.

Dans le chapitre Production agricole et alimentaire, on relève au paragraphe 4 du document Supplément 1, qu'en Afrique, la situation est particulièrement alarmante, car l'on a enregistré une baisse de 3 pour cent de la production agricole, et ce, après deux mauvaises années consécutives, et une campagne agricole 1991 médiocre. Au paragraphe 198 du document principal, il est indiqué que la production par habitant, de l'Afrique subsaharienne, a diminué de 1,8 pour cent en 1991 pour la cinquième année consécutive.

La sécheresse a frappé sévèrement plusieurs pays, surtout ceux de l'Afrique australe; et certains pays dont Madagascar, ont dû affronter l'attaque des criquets dans les zones sinistrées.

La situation désastreuse dans laquelle se trouve ces pays est d'autant plus à déplorer, que tous sinon la plupart ont décidé de donner à l'agriculture la priorité absolue. Ils ont consenti les sacrifices les plus amers pour mettre en oeuvre des mesures de redressement économique rigoureux.

Au paragraphe 204 du document principal, on mentionne la voie prise par beaucoup de ces pays pour un plus grand libéralisme dans les domaines politique et économique. Les réformes sont en cours avec les difficultés que l'on connaît. La plupart du temps, on constate un ralentissement de la croissance et une détérioration de la sécurité alimentaire. Aussi, un soutien plus accru de la communauté internationale s'avère-t-il absolument indispensable.

Traitant du chapitre commerce agricole, la délégation malgache, à l'instar de nombreuses délégations regrette les difficultés rencontrées par les négociations commerciales multilatérales de l'Uruguay Round, et souhaite que les parties en présence trouvent rapidement les solutions aux problèmes rencontrés.

Ma délégation regrette également la baisse constante de la part de l'Afrique dans le commerce mondial et la chute vertigineuse des prix des produits d'exportation. Les termes de l'échange pour cette région ont baissé, dit-on, en moyenne de 6 pour cent entre 1990 et 1991, hypothéquant gravement le volume des recettes d'exportation.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je parlerai du chapitre assistance extérieure et aide alimentaire.

En matière d'assistance extérieure, je souhaiterais tout simplement réitérer ce que j'ai dit auparavant, à savoir l'impérieux besoin pour nos pays, d'un soutien accru de la part de la communauté internationale, au moment où de profonds changements bouleversant l'ordre établi sont en train de s'accomplir.

L'aide alimentaire qui contribue aussi au développement, fait bel et bien partie de l'assistance extérieure et ma délégation ne peut que se féliciter des conclusions et des résolutions prises par le CPA à sa dernière session qui vient de s'achever.

Les membres du CPA ont abandonné les positions de principes peu favorables à l'efficacité de l'aide alimentaire, par exemple, le rejet de la monétisation. Actuellement, de nombreux donateurs encouragent ce système dans beaucoup de cas à condition bien entendu que les bénéficiaires soient les groupes-cibles et que le système contribue vraiment à améliorer la situation alimentaire du pays.

Ma délégation se félicite également de l'intérêt que le CPA attribue au programme spécial sur l'Afrique en ce sens qu'à terme, un programme bien défini sera élaboré.

Puisque je parle d'aide alimentaire je ne saurai taire le geste, oh combien noble, qu'a accompli la communauté internationale en venant au secours de la population du Sud malgache durement éprouvée, et par une sécheresse sans précédent ainsi que par une famine redoutable.

C'est donc grâce à cet élan de générosité et de solidarité tant de l'intérieur que de l'extérieur, que nous avons pu mettre en place 3 phases bien distinctes:

la première phase étant la phase d'intervention ponctuelle, où il s'agit exclusivement de venir en aide aux plus démunis, en leur donnant de quoi manger, et de quoi se soigner, pour éviter les décès en cascade;

la deuxième phase étant la restructuration familiale, qui consiste à faire revenir dans leurs villages d'origine, ceux qui les ont abandonnés pour pouvoir trouver de quoi se nourrir dans les agglomérations plus importantes. Point n'est besoin de signaler que pour ce faire, des dotations en semences, en petits matériels agricoles, en matériaux essentiels de construction et en ustensiles indispensables de cuisine, sont effectuées, pour justement inciter les gens à s'implanter définitivement dans leurs villages d'origine, au lieu de succomber à la tentation de venir dans les gros bourgs;

la troisième phase est le corollaire de la précédente, étant donné que lorsque les bras restent aux villages, ils constituent à contribuer à leur développement durable. Et j'aimerais à ce titre porter à votre connaissance que récemment, le Gouvernement malgache vient de nommer un délégué général au Haut Commissariat chargé du développement intégré du Sud de Madagascar.

C'est ainsi, Monsieur le Président, qu'au nom du Gouvernement malgache, ma délégation sent le devoir d'adresser ses remerciements les plus sincères et ses vœux de profonde reconnaissance à tous les pays qui sont venus en aide à cette population sinistrée du Sud malgache. Au risque de blesser leur modestie, que la FAO et le PAM soient publiquement gratifiés ici, pour la mobilisation d'envergure qu'ils ont entamée auprès de la communauté internationale. Ils n'ont ménagé aucun effort pour intervenir sur place avec la célérité et l'efficacité les caractérisant.

**Ivan MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia)** : Saludo a las delegaciones y me sumo a las felicitaciones y a los agradecimientos que se han expresado aquí en forma reiterada.

Quisiéramos que nuestras reflexiones fueran constructivas en esta reunión y contribuir a darle un alcance positivo al trabajo que realizamos. Por eso vamos a darle un acento crítico a nuestras palabras. Nos parecería equivocado que después de dos semanas de trabajo nos fuéramos de aquí con la sensación de que no ha pasado nada.

En efecto, es común que nos levantemos de nuestras mesas de trabajo en la FAO con la sensación de que ha pasado una jornada más entre muchas, repetida y reiterativa en sus formulaciones, sin que lo que hacemos tenga consecuencias importantes para nadie.

Debemos encontrar el camino para darle un sentido eficaz y convincente a nuestro trabajo. Es indispensable que lo que hacemos aquí sea interesante también para quienes están por fuera de este recinto, y esto sólo ocurrirá si las ideas que traemos y las acciones que adelantamos ayudan a cambiar en forma visible y notoria el rumbo preocupante y doloroso de la humanidad.

Cuando se leen en el documento que discutimos algunas menciones acerca de la comprometida situación económica y social en la que están envueltos los países de Europa del Este, que decidieron romper con su organización comunista, parece como si fuéramos unos simples espectadores de esos acontecimientos. Esa es en general la actitud de la comunidad internacional.

Nadie en el mundo se imaginó que el comunismo en Europa iba a tener el fin que tuvo, en el momento y en la forma en que ocurrieron los desenlaces de estos últimos años. Por eso mismo, nadie estaba preparado, no había un manual de procedimientos para la cantidad de frentes de actividad que se abrieron, ni respuestas para la infinidad de preguntas que surgieron sobre qué hacer y cómo hacer las cosas.

Esa profunda y transcendental transición de decenas de pueblos, con centenares de millones de personas hacia la democracia y la libertad de mercados ha sido una cadena de improvisaciones que ha dejado enormes sufrimientos que no terminan.

La FAO, señores Miembros del Consejo, debe estar presente allá en forma masiva, con sus expertos, con sus libros, con sus manuales, con ayudas audiovisuales para poner al servicio de los dirigentes de esos países y sobre todo de los agricultores, la historia y las experiencias de la humanidad sobre la manera de organizarse dentro de los conceptos del capitalismo. Para poner en contacto a esos agricultores con tecnologías que puedan serles útiles, con sistemas de administración que les ayuden a organizarse y para conectarlos con las fuentes de crédito, de suministros y con los mercados.

Proponemos, entonces, que se estudie un plan de cooperación de emergencia de la FAO a Europa del Este, que pueda tener repercusiones tangibles en esa área del mundo y que incluya las formas posibles de financiarlo y ponerlo en práctica, dentro de las limitaciones presupuestarias en las que nos movemos. Esa es una prioridad en este tiempo, que nos exige austeridad, superación, esfuerzos, entusiasmo, y como es obvio, hay que aprovechar sin desperdicios los recursos de que disponemos. Es un reto que tenemos al frente y que nos invita a sacudirnos del marasmo de declaraciones estériles para pasar a la acción.

Hay un viejo tema de esta Sede de la FAO que se ha hecho familiar y por lo mismo ha perdido su real dramatismo, es decir, no crea los compromisos ni desata las energías de acción que debieran movilizarse desde aquí. Me refiero al Africa. El peor de los componentes del drama del Africa es que se ha generalizado en el mundo el sentimiento de que se trata de un caso perdido, de una situación sin remedio. 170 millones de personas padecen de hambre en ese continente, y esa es una realidad que nos tiene aplastados a todos. Además, porque viene acompañada, como es natural, de barbarie y caos.

Nosotros invitamos a este Consejo y a los funcionarios de FAO a que busquemos entre todos una nueva actitud frente a este problema. A que reavivemos un interés verdadero, que despierte esperanzas. Que superemos la rutina de las cifras macabras, y pasemos a los hechos.

En este sentido, nos parece indispensable reunir en un solo recinto y en una sola discusión a la FAO, al PMA y al FIDA. Esos son nuestros instrumentos de trabajo en Roma. Con todo y sus escasos recursos, tienen mucho que hacer en favor del Africa. Pero necesitan coordinación. No podemos seguir actuando en forma aislada y descoordinada, porque la repercusión de los esfuerzos así es mínima.

Proponemos, en consecuencia, que se prepare una reunión exclusiva sobre Africa en la que revisemos lo que estamos haciendo allá, estudiemos otras alternativas y definamos un programa que nos permita salir de aquí al campo, a trabajar. También a buscar ayuda y cooperación en otros sitios. Que nos

permita dejar atrás las palabras y pasar a la acción, y todos podamos colaborar, no sólo unos pocos, en la certeza de que no se van a desperdiciar las energías en actividades dispersas e incoherentes.

Quiero llamar la atención también, señores Miembros del Consejo, en América Latina. La mayor parte de esta región del mundo no está progresando, sino lo contrario, se deteriora en sus signos sociales y económicos. Sobre esto debe haber una conciencia aquí.

Noventa millones de latinoamericanos viven en condiciones de pobreza crítica, y en tales circunstancias, padecen hambre. Además, esta cifra en vez de disminuir aumenta año tras año. Allá también tenemos un reto los miembros de esta Organización y de este Consejo.

Estuvimos presentes hace pocas semanas en la última Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, y nos llamó la atención la poca mística e interés que despertó la reunión entre los gobiernos, entre los asistentes, y en general entre la opinión pública. Nos parece, entonces, que es hora de revisar nuestros sistemas de trabajo. No es posible que unos países en crisis no vean a la FAO como una oportunidad que se debe aprovechar, y como una esperanza.

Quisiéramos sugerir algunas iniciativas hacia el futuro.

En primer término, se debe convencer a los Ministros de Agricultura de América Latina y el Caribe para que se reúnan cuanto antes bajo los auspicios de la FAO. Ha habido cambios en el mundo y en la región, que deben analizar juntos para capitalizar experiencias y coordinar acciones.

Es hora, por ejemplo, de que los gobiernos latinoamericanos intercambien experiencias y evalúen las políticas de ajuste económico e institucional que han puesto en marcha durante los últimos años y que han tenido repercusiones en la agricultura y en la estructura social del campo.

Resulta urgente, también, actualizar las estrategias sobre investigación y adopción de tecnologías, y su divulgación intensiva entre los agricultores.

De igual manera, América Latina debe acercar su mirada de conjunto a la evolución económica del mundo, de los mercados internacionales, de los capitales, de la ciencia y la tecnología, a la evolución general de las diversas regiones del planeta.

Pero es importante hacer una aproximación nueva, diferente por parte de la FAO a esos gobiernos. Que reviva las convicciones de nuestro hemisferio en la capacidad de acción y en la calidad de nuestra Organización. La verdad es que nuestro potencial de cooperación se ha marchitado en la apreciación de muchos gobiernos latinoamericanos, que no tienen ya mayores expectativas en nuestro trabajo.

Por esto, considero que una reunión de ministros como la que proponemos, debe ser preparada por un grupo seleccionado entre los más calificados funcionarios de la FAO y de las demás agencias de Naciones Unidas en Roma, previa la visita a cada uno de los ministros para consultarles la agenda, el programa de trabajo que desean y los demás detalles del encuentro. Que sean ellos los que tomen las decisiones y adquieran los compromisos, mientras la Organización les da su apoyo técnico y logístico. Esto sería interesante porque en América

Latina, a pesar de las afinidades y los intereses en común, las políticas agropecuarias están desconectadas de un país a otro, se repiten experiencias negativas vividas en el pasado por algunos, se tienen abandonados algunos frentes críticos y hay un aislamiento que no favorece a nadie desde el punto de vista político, técnico y comercial.

Deseo hacer ahora especial mención a un tema que tiene particular importancia para más de medio centenar de países en vía de desarrollo de África, Asia y América Latina. Me refiero al café. Decenas de millones de personas viven del café en el mundo. Sobre todo, agricultores modestos que no tienen otra fuente de ingresos. Además, es fuente de divisas fundamental para esos países.

El café ha tenido un colapso en el mundo en los tres últimos años. En 1989 se suspendieron las cláusulas económicas del Pacto Internacional que ordenaba el comercio internacional de este producto, y sus precios cayeron a una tercera parte.

Es indispensable que la FAO se ocupe de este asunto, más allá de las menciones vagas y superficiales que al respecto se hacen en los estudios que analizamos.

Señores miembros del Consejo: los países exportadores de café no hacemos esfuerzos para "reforzar" los acuerdos internacionales sobre este producto, tal como lo afirma el documento que nos ocupa. La cuestión es más profunda. El Pacto Cafetero está suspendido desde 1989, y hay un mercado libre y ofrecido que aprovechan los intermediarios y los torrefactores de los países ricos, para hacer utilidades extraordinarias a expensas de los campesinos pobres del Tercer Mundo.

Lo que ocurre, señores delegados, es aberrante: menos de diez compañías multinacionales están acaparando las dos terceras partes del precio que ha perdido el café durante estos años, y que era un margen que antes recibían los caficultores. Los hogares consumidores de café de los países desarrollados no se han beneficiado de esta caída de los precios. Sólo poderosos intermediarios, industriales y comercializadores han hecho estas utilidades extraordinarias que suman decenas de miles de millones de dólares en estos tres años, y que dejaron de percibir campesinos pobres.

Repito, señores delegados, la suspensión del Pacto de Cuotas Cafetero que dejó expuesto el mercado al libre juego de la oferta y la demanda, sólo ha lucrado a poderosos intermediarios e industriales que se cuentan en los dedos de la mano. Esa es una afrenta al sentido de la justicia y de la ética que debe existir en el funcionamiento de la economía del mundo, para que el sistema que gobierna las relaciones internacionales sea sostenible por el respeto y el prestigio de que goce entre todos los pueblos.

Por esa razón es necesario que desde aquí contribuyamos a que las negociaciones que se realizan en Londres, dirigidas a restablecer las cláusulas económicas de dicho Pacto, se adelanten con un ánimo constructivo y solidario entre las partes, teniendo en cuenta las trágicas realidades de la pobreza en el mundo, que aquí analizamos.

Pero no sólo debemos registrar la injusticia, como hecho objetivo y concreto, sino también manifestar una preocupación adicional. El Pacto Cafetero, que había demostrado ser durante más de treinta años un mecanismo efectivo para racionalizar el mercadeo de una materia prima básica, ya no es una referencia que estimule avanzar en un mismo sentido con otros productos.



El panorama de los acuerdos de comercio en el que se pusieron tantas ilusiones cuando se crearon las Naciones Unidas hace cerca de cincuenta años, ha quedado más desolado que antes. Y lo paradójico es que esto ocurre cuando el capitalismo ha quedado como único ejemplo de organización económica en el planeta. Un capitalismo grosero y desaforado, señores Delegados, en el que no tengan opciones sino las minorías más fuertes, terminaría cayendo en el desprestigio y generando incredulidad e inconformidad incontenibles en muchas zonas del mundo. Los demócratas debemos encender una alerta sobre esto.

En consecuencia, desde ahora solicitamos que en el próximo período de sesiones de este Consejo se incluya el tema del Café, se invite para las deliberaciones a la Organización Internacional del Café, y se le motive para que presente entre nosotros su propia información y sus puntos de vista sobre el tema.

Voy a referirme finalmente a otro tema, señor Presidente, que trata el documento CL 102/2 que estamos analizando.

En cuanto a los asuntos ambientales nos cabría decir que hemos recibido por años, desde distintas fuentes, señales preocupantes como las que leemos allí. Consideramos que debe haber más respuesta. Más acción. Utilizar con mayor provecho la información que se tiene para detener las catástrofes que se anuncian, y que son reales y nos afectarán a todos, cualesquiera sean los lugares que habitemos.

Quiero decirles que en Colombia, por ejemplo, nos vimos enfrentados en forma sorpresiva este año a una sequía de nefastas consecuencias, para la que no estábamos preparados. Hemos tenido durante casi todo el año racionamientos permanentes de energía hasta de nueve horas diarias, y en varias de nuestras grandes ciudades ha escaseado el agua potable durante largas jornadas. Hemos encontrado con asombro, que la deforestación sostenida a lo largo de años ha tenido consecuencias desastrosas y que se han secado miles de pequeños cauces de agua, que ha dejado en forma peligrosa el caudal de nuestros ríos, y que en muchos casos se trata de situaciones irreparables.

No dudamos de que a nosotros mismos nos cabe responsabilidad fundamental en este proceso de degradación del ambiente. Pero tengan la seguridad de que la ayuda de la FAO en crear una conciencia sobre el problema entre nuestros dirigentes políticos, sociales, económicos y entre la población en general, puede ser de vital importancia si se intensifica y sí se lleva a cabo en forma directa entre los principales estamentos, incluyendo el Congreso, que juega un papel crucial en este campo. La FAO puede llegarle a esos sectores de manera muy convincente, y generar conductas nuevas. Consideramos que es algo válido para muchos países de nuestro continente.

En general, señores miembros del Consejo, queremos invitar hoy a todos los Estados Miembros de FAO y a nuestra Organización, a que superemos la etapa de informar, y pasemos a la etapa de actuar. Y a que nuestras intervenciones y nuestros documentos de trabajo sean consignas de acción. No sólo discursos que se lleva el viento.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias distinguido representante de Colombia por su intervención. Usted sabe muy bien que la FAO quiere una buena coordinación entre los diferentes organismos que están trabajando en Roma y, como he tenido la oportunidad de decir en Montevideo, creo que la responsabilidad política

y la voluntad dependen de los Estados Miembros de la FAO. Esos Estados deben dar a la Organización la posibilidad de trabajar con recursos suficientes.

**Oscar SALES PETINGA (Portugal):** Monsieur le Président, je tiens à vous féliciter et à vous dire la joie de la délégation portugaise de vous voir une fois de plus présider nos travaux. J'en profite pour féliciter également les trois vice-présidents de leur élection.

Je voudrais aussi féliciter le Secrétariat de son travail de synthèse dans les documents 102/2 et 102/2 Sup.1 relatifs à la Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans la perspective plus élargie du développement. Il s'agit d'un document très important, qui suffira à garantir une discussion vive et stimulante pendant toute la durée de cette session du Conseil.

Malgré les limites de temps, la délégation portugaise voudrait faire des commentaires sur certaines questions relevées dans ces documents. Au paragraphe 6, il est fait une synthèse de la vue économique d'ensemble des pays industrialisés et des pays en développement. A titre d'information, je voudrais indiquer qu'en raison des mesures politiques approuvées par son gouvernement et de son taux de croissance économique, mon pays est dans le groupe des pays de la Communauté économique européenne dont le taux de chômage est le plus faible, bien qu'au Portugal travaillent des dizaines de milliers d'immigrants provenant surtout des pays d'expression portugaise, qui cherchent de meilleures conditions de vie. Cependant, mon pays est conscient du fait qu'il lui est nécessaire d'atteindre un taux de croissance économique plus élevé qui lui permettra de se rapprocher des partenaires communautaires qui jouissent d'économies plus favorables.

Des liens de plusieurs siècles avec les territoires en développement nous rendent particulièrement sensibles à leurs problèmes. Nous nous réjouissons de la croissance moyenne déjà atteinte par ces pays et nous appelons votre attention sur les taux de 6,7 pour cent et de 5,4 pour cent qu'ils devraient atteindre respectivement en 1992 et en 1993.

Nous voulons aussi appeler votre attention sur la situation économique de l'Afrique subsaharienne, laquelle est devenue très inquiétante. Les pays les plus avancés devront donc les aider.

Ce qui nous semble aussi consolateur, c'est le fait que la dette extérieure et son service sont en train de s'améliorer, ce qui nous mène à penser que ces pays sont en train d'augmenter leur production alimentaire, réduisant ainsi leurs dettes dues à l'importation d'aliments. C'est là la voie la plus correcte. Renégocier ou pardonner les dettes est une solution momentanée: il importe surtout d'éliminer les causes de la dette extérieure.

La délégation portugaise estime que la discussion sur l'analyse détaillée de la situation dans certains pays sera très utile. Nous avons déjà fait état de notre position à ce sujet lors des sessions antérieures du Conseil. Nous pensons qu'il faut continuer à faire ce type d'analyse. Cependant, il sera difficile de suivre un critère de décision dans les pays où cette situation doit être analysée. Nous aimerions que, dans les prochains documents, soit analysée la situation de quelques pays qui subissent de graves carences alimentaires, tels que la Somalie, l'Angola, le Mozambique et bien d'autres.

Dans le cadre de la conservation des ressources et des stratégies de développement, la forêt nous a toujours intéressés et préoccupés en raison de sa grande importance économique et sociale parce que nous avons de grandes étendues de terrain qui pourraient être boisées.

Les dangers auxquels la forêt des zones tempérées est soumise nous préoccupent car le déboisement y a atteint de très grandes proportions. Nous pensons que la conservation de cette ressource est fondamentale tant pour le paysage que comme source de ressources directes et indirectes.

La question des effets de la pluie acide dans certains pays industrialisés nous inquiète, de même que les incendies forestiers qui provoquent le déboisement de grandes superficies dans les pays méditerranéens et qui constituent l'élément le plus néfaste du dessèchement de la forêt tropicale.

Au paragraphe 189, il est fait une synthèse de l'évolution de la superficie forestière dans les zones tropicales. Les chiffres concernant sa destruction sont frappants bien qu'ils soient connus. Si l'intensité de ce déboisement persiste, le patrimoine forestier ne résistera pas plus d'un siècle à ces ravages. Ce problème est particulièrement préoccupant pour l'avenir de nos fils. Dans ce même paragraphe, il est relevé que 1,7 milliard d'hectares des terres tropicales sont boisés. Ce pourcentage de boisement est très bon et la délégation portugaise aimerait savoir, de la part du Secrétariat, s'il s'agit là de forêts normales ou de forêts à croissance rapide pour l'usage industriel. L'analyse détaillée de la situation ainsi que les prévisions futures exigent que nous en ayons connaissance.

Le tableau 4 de la page 19 du document 102/2 nous donne les pourcentages très intéressants de la production per capita dans les divers pays. Ces dernières années, ces pourcentages étaient mis à jour dans le Supplément 1, ce qui ne se produit pas cette année.

Je voudrais encore parler de la situation au Portugal, qui va empirer en 1992 étant donné les baisses accentuées de la production agricole. Les cultures d'hiver et de printemps ont subi les effets directs du manque de pluie et les cultures d'été ont subi une réduction en raison également de l'absence d'eau des barrages.

La figure 10 de la page 32 du document 102/2 a également retenu notre attention et nous préoccupe. On y vérifie une tendance à la dépréciation de quelques produits tropicaux des cultures de rapport. Cette situation est bien illustrée dans les paragraphes 40 à 51 du document CL 102/2 Sup.1. Le Directeur général a attiré notre attention sur ce sujet dans son discours d'hier.

De tels faits peuvent provoquer des changements très sensibles dans les politiques agricoles qui se répercuteront dans les pays en développement et deviendront une sérieuse menace pour les pays à monoculture. Les prix du cacao et du café sont à l'origine de très graves problèmes dans certains pays parce que ces cultures, qui occupent les terres pendant plusieurs années successives, ne peuvent pas être facilement modifiées à court terme sans donner lieu à de graves conflits sociaux et économiques.

L'adoption de stratégies d'appui aux prix qui sont déjà en vigueur pour le cacao, par exemple, doit être accompagnée de changements structurels importants. Les pays producteurs ne peuvent pas continuer à penser que ces

stratégies sont éternelles et en profiter comme si elles étaient des encouragements à la reconversion. Le cas du café en est un exemple, tel que référé au paragraphe 48 du document CL 102/2 Sup.1, et des situations analogues peuvent survenir dans le cas de nombreux produits excédentaires sur le marché international.

D'après l'analyse globale du document à l'examen, nous pouvons conclure que les pays en développement ont fait un effort considérable pour augmenter leur production agricole et que cet effort doit se poursuivre.

En ce qui concerne la sélection des cultures auxquelles ils auront donné la priorité, ils devront toujours tenir compte de la situation des marchés mondiaux étant donné la compétitivité des prix dans un marché libre, et ils devront accorder une plus grande attention aux cultures pluriannuelles dont la production devra se maintenir pendant plusieurs années.

**Shahid RASHID (Pakistan):** We have been presented with 144 pages, plus another 19 supplementary pages and a corrigendum, of a detailed review of the State of Food and Agriculture in the World. Were it not for the silver lining of the cautious optimism and tidings of a minor recovery, this rather voluminous document would have made depressing reading. However, apart from the commendable effort of the Secretariat in putting together a very comprehensive and useful document, which we greatly appreciate, there is little cause for satisfaction. As the Director-General in his touching address yesterday lamented, "instead of victory over hunger and malnutrition... we are losing thousands of lives every day to famine."

The sordid human tragedies that are daily being enacted on the different stages of the world from Somalia to Bosnia-Herzegovina, from Mozambique to Afghanistan, are not merely natural disasters. We must pause to ponder whether the widespread food shortages could have been avoided, whether the millions of hungry could have been saved from famine and death, and whether we now have the will and resolve to prevent a repetition of such calamities in the future.

Global recession, increasing unemployment, a huge debt burden of the developing countries and their increasing vulnerability to the external economic environment are only some of the unsavoury features of the current world economic situation. Added to these are factors such as rampant under-nutrition and an alarming growth in population that outpaces any economic growth.

Furthermore, an inequitable system of distribution of economic benefits, an unfair regime of tariffs and trade practices, coupled with pressures of structural adjustments, have compounded the problems. Such are the critical times we face, and it is for us collectively not only to think deeply, but also to search our hearts to find out ways and means to cope with and to remove the stigma of hunger, malnutrition and death from famine.

The Food and Agriculture Organization, with its accumulated wealth of expertise and knowledge, is uniquely placed to influence and to guide the policies of food and agriculture so as to attain its cherished objectives. In a changed and changing world our expectations from FAO are even greater. We would like FAO to play an increasingly active role in fulfilling its mandate. More specifically, we expect FAO will exert itself to ensure that agriculture producers should be provided with a favourable economic environment, and

negative effects of policy interventions which distort markets are mitigated. The importance of the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multinational Trade Negotiations also needs to be further stressed so as to safeguard the interest of developing countries and provide them with, among other things, a fair access to markets. The wave of protectionism and the formation of trade blocks is also a cause of some concern to us which should also be addressed.

A spate of emergencies and disasters has been increasingly engaging the attention and resources of FAO and WFP. We appreciate the efforts made in this regard and would like to see a strengthening of this role, particularly as envisaged by the International Emergency Food Reserve and the Immediate Response Account.

At the same time, we should like to emphasize that FAO and WFP should not be overwhelmed by emergencies and should retain its focus on development as well in a balanced manner.

We also welcome, and strongly support, the initiatives FAO is taking in the environmental sector and its active pursuit of Agenda 21 following UNCED. The forthcoming International Conference on Nutrition is also a most encouraging move and we look forward to its deliberations with keen interest.

With regard to Pakistan, it has been a source of some satisfaction for us that our agricultural growth was the highest in the region. As also indicated in the document under review at paragraph 329, the agricultural GDP growth rate of Pakistan was 5.1 percent, the strongest in Asia, with increased production of cotton, sugar cane and rice. However, unfortunately there has been some setback, particularly on account of the devastating floods which engulfed the country last September.

The Government of Pakistan remains committed and is making every possible effort to maximize production. Subsidized inputs and bank loans at concessionary rates are provided to farmers. Support prices as an incentive to produce more grain are announced well before the sowing time. Information on improved farming techniques is disseminated through the mass media and extension services. Although Pakistan had attained self-sufficiency in wheat in certain years, it had occasionally to face a deficit on account of the rapidly expanding wheat requirement and a fast rate of population growth. The deficit is being met through imports from various sources.

I would add the food management and stock policies of the Government ensure that there is a smooth flow and continuous availability of food grains both in urban and rural areas.

In conclusion, let me once again voice our support for initiatives that FAO has undertaken, and is undertaking, to strive for a world free from want and hunger. We are encouraged by these efforts and hope that all of us shall collectively work to overcome these obstacles and accomplish our objectives.

**Benson C. MBOGOH (Kenya):** Permit me, Mr Chairman, to say how pleased my delegation is to see you presiding over this session of the Council.

I should also like to commend the Secretariat for its excellent review of the 1992 World Food and Agriculture Situation. We find the regional reviews in

document CL 102/2 particularly informative, not only in describing more vividly the regional and country-specific problems and opportunities but in clearly illustrating the vulnerability of many developing countries to the forces of natural and man-made calamities, as well as the virtually unlimited capacity and resilience of the major industrial and oil economies to cushion -indeed, to recover from - the effects of the same forces.

We are also in general agreement with the broad review of Kenya's economic and agricultural performance carried as a case study at pages 54 to 59 of the document. It generally portrays a fair picture of the situation that has prevailed to date.

A conducive macro-economic and politically stable environment is essential for agricultural growth. Unfortunately, continuing turbulence in the economic and social world order, snowballing from the Gulf War and exacerbated by natural disasters around the world, has not assured this enabling environment. The result is what faces us now: a protracted slowdown in world economic activity and unprecedented suffering and death of millions of people.

The effect of this decline on recent and prospective economic performance in non-OECD countries, while clearly varied, has been most severe in countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Let me take a few minutes to illustrate that with the domestic situation of my own country.

Kenya has experienced a steady decline in the level of its real gross domestic product for the third consecutive year. Real GDP expanded by a mere 2.2 percent in 1991, the lowest since 1984. Agriculture, the mainstay of the country's economy, actually recorded a negative growth rate of minus 1.1 percent for the first time in several years following a substantial drop in the output of most of the agricultural commodities: for example, aggregate cereals output by 14 percent; coffee deliveries by 22 percent; sugar by 2 percent; milk by 8 percent; and horticultural exports by 10 percent. The same can be said of a score of other poor developing countries like Kenya.

Much of that steady drop can be blamed not only on the current recessionary pressures and drought but it is by and large attributable to the cumulative effects of more basic factors: continued distortions in international trade, aggregate resource outflows from the poor developing countries, grouped with external debts, inadequate development assistance to the agricultural sector of the developing countries, and prescribed reform policies that have yet to prove their effectiveness. In this connection I feel deeply appreciative of the statement by the delegate of Australia.

As a result of the sharp slowdown in world trade, the trading prospects of the non-oil developing countries have continued to suffer. This has been a direct consequence of a sharp drop in demand for exports from these countries and the resultant fall in their commodity prices. In a number of cases whole markets for some products have simply collapsed.

In Kenya, for example, virtually all major export commodities have suffered major drops in export levels. The net result has invariably been a severe drop in export earnings and farm revenues.

Since the collapse of the International Coffee Agreement in 1989, coffee producing countries have lost over US\$10 billion, enough to service a large proportion of their external debt.

The immediate causal factor for this dismaying situation is the world economic slowdown. However, it must be admitted that recessionary pressure has only accelerated the trend. Basic underlying factors which are all too familiar have to be addressed. I mean, all manner of distortions such as international trade, competition from synthetics, continued instability in primary commodity prices, to name but a few. It is a matter of regret that these distortions continue to reduce marketing opportunities for exports from developing countries. The Uruguay Round of negotiations must have some of the answers, and we hope that greater political will shall prevail to reach a final successful end to these negotiations.

The flow of international development assistance to developing countries, both official and commercial assistance, has continued to decline in the aggregate at a time when it is most needed. The stimulation of growth in agriculture requires increased and sustained inflows of investment resources into the sector.

While in the short run the world economic slump may give cause for some rich industrialized countries to curtail additional development assistance to developing countries, industrial countries must feel even more challenged to raise their development assistance to reach at least the target of 0.7 percent of their domestic national product in official development assistance in agreement with the international development strategy of the United Nations.

In that regard, I have to say that conditionalities imposed on developing countries by a number of donors always become counter-productive, and donors should re-examine their policies in a spirit of mutual cooperation and eliminate these preconditions.

The fact is that the food and agricultural situation in developing countries is not influenced solely by the external economic environment but also by internal factors, not the least of which are domestic policies.

Several countries, including Kenya, have over the last few years pursued pragmatic reforms in policies and strategies. These reforms have been aimed primarily at sustained expansion in agricultural production and an increase in farm incomes from the small-scale farm and pastoral sectors.

In the Kenyan context, the strategies to achieve this have included: intensification in food production as a national policy; food intervention programmes to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable groups; the maintenance of broad self-sufficiency in basic foodstuffs; and the expansion of agricultural export earnings.

The implementation of these reforms has necessitated a substantial increase in the proportion of government resources to agriculture. As an illustration, the share of total expenditure to agricultural development in Kenya has steadily increased from a little below 20 percent in the 1970s to over 35 percent in the 1980s. But the challenging task of sustaining an adequate level of economic growth to keep up with the country's increasing needs requires frequent review and readjustment of policies and strategies. Lack of effective policy analysis and development capacity at the national level can be a serious constraint in this regard. Therefore, the FAO must intensify efforts to provide the technical assistance to developing countries in this particular area.

The Kenyan Government has endeavoured to maintain the tempo of structural reforms. Most recently these have been extended further to include liberalization of the marketing of food grains and livestock products which in the past have been marketed through the government marketing boards. This has been coupled with the de-control of consumer prices to improve efficiency in production and encourage healthy competition.

Experience in structural reforms increasingly show that it is one thing to apply an ideal reform package but another to achieve the desired results, particularly when there is a host of external factors working in the opposite direction.

It is increasingly evident that there is a need for greater international cooperation in ensuring that policy reforms prescribed for poor developing countries to restructure their agricultural sectors are supported and even reinforced by policies in developing importing countries, especially those that impact on international trade.

Finally, scores of countries, including my own, are facing an unprecedented food supply crisis due to drought compounded by continuous civil strife and massive displacement of people. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to convey my Government's most sincere gratitude to the international community of donors of food aid for the generous response to my Government's special appeal for emergency food aid to Somali refugees in Kenya. As a neighbour to Somalia, Kenya has had to bear the full impact - and it does so without any regret - of the Somali refugees, now totalling well over half a million people, at a crucial time when the country is facing drought and economic hardships of its own. Kenya is still ready to provide the necessary facilities to the UN agencies, NGOs, and inter-governmental organizations to assist our neighbours and Somalia in particular.

**Supote DECHATES (Thailand):** Mr Chairman, once again my delegation is very pleased to see you in the chair of this important meeting. My delegation would also like to express our congratulations to your Vice-Chairmen upon their election. Document CL 102/2 and its supplement have provided us with a very comprehensive review of the state of food and agriculture in 1992 of every region, as well as the global situation as a whole. Therefore, my delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat sincerely.

As stated in paragraph 7, economic growth in developing countries as a whole was estimated at 3.3 percent in 1991, and it is expected to accelerate to 6.7 percent in 1992 and to 5.4 percent in 1993. Regionally, growth is expected to remain high in the Far East in 1992/93.

As a country from the Far East, Thailand's economic growth in 1992 is expected to achieve at the rate of 7.5 percent, as forecast earlier. The seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (1992 to 1996) attempts to maintain a sustaining growth in general, with the aim of agricultural growth at 3.4 percent per annum through new agricultural development policies.

The objectives of the new phase of agricultural development focus on three major areas, namely: to maintain the sector rate at an economically appropriate rate; to continue to raise farm families' income through fair trade practices in farm production and marketing; and lastly to restore and develop the degrading natural resources, and protect them.



Mr Chairman, referring to document CL 102/2 Sup.1, under the section Agriculture Production, paragraph 6 reports that at about 2.4 percent food, agricultural production growth in the Far East in 1992 is expected to fall below trend for the second consecutive year. Although the climate is lately in 1992 partially favourable, we would like to point out that the first part of the year saw Thailand facing a drought-stricken agricultural economy, and the encounter of insufficient rainwater and lower water reserves greatly reduced the areas planted of major economic crops and also their productivity. However, with regard to growth of the farm sector in 1992, the first year when the National Economic and Social Development Plan is being phased in, its forecast is 3.18 percent lower than the average annual target of 3.40 percent, while the crop sector would gain a modest growth of 1.68 percent. We do not expect the major paddy crop for 1992 crop year beginning this November to be more than 16.9 million tons. This would be a drop of 0.6 million tons or 3.4 percent over the previous year. Though the output is going to drop, next year rice prices would not be raised as the global output is also expected to rise. In somewhat similar downward trends, cassava output is expected to be 19.8 million tons, a drop by 0.2 million tons; maize output is predicted to be 3.5 million tons, a fall by 0.3 million tons and the expected soybean 1992 production of 0.4 million tons would be a decline of 0.02 million tons.

With the predicted growth of the fisheries subsector of 2.5 percent for 1992, while the 1989 to 1990 growth was 2.9 percent a year, the decline in the growth rate is contributed by the over-physical and economic capacity of the fisheries, resulting obviously in the degradation of the fishery resources. To make it worse, the commercial logging ban imposed since 1988 has also continued to decrease the forest products. As a result of this, the growth of the forestry subsector is expected to decline further 19.21 percent while it fell 17.7 percent in the year earlier.

Mr Chairman, it has been well known for a long time that Thailand is one of the world's leading fishery producer exporters successfully carried out by the achievement of technical researches which has been conducted by the Fisheries Department accompanied by the private sector's enthusiasm. Though fishing as well as aquaculture business have been heavily affected by the depletion causing continuous decline of natural resources, Thailand's fishery output still remains at a rising but diminishing rate.

The Thai Government has seen the need to improve fishing practices and fisheries management to avoid over-exploitation and for the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources in harmony with the environment; the use of capture and aquaculture practices, which are not harmful to ecosystems and resources, and the incorporation of added-values to such products through transformation processes.

Some vigorous measures as previously reported by the Thai delegation in the State of Food and Agriculture 1990 are being adopted to achieve better relationships among the fishing activities, such as the conservation of the environment and the recommendations issued by FAO.

Mr Chairman, the performance of the forestry sector has been found to be unsatisfactory, and a new forest policy framework and master plan is being developed on the basis that Thai forests should be managed with the benefit priority given to the rural poor, among the benefit of all sections in the society, and the forest policy should give clear priorities where conflicts might arise. The remaining natural forests are aimed to be conserved not only

primarily for their hydrological functions, but also for biodiversity protection and for the increase in rural living standards. Where protection was socially unlikely, then the existing occupants will be encouraged to manage the land for forestry purposes.

In the section of Food Availability and Undernutrition under the heading Food and Agricultural Supply Situation, we share with the FAO's discussion in paragraph 64 and Table 7, that the Far East experienced the largest decline in the proportion of the undernourished: from 40 percent in 1969-71 to 19 percent in 1988-90.

In Thailand, the mid-1970 malnutrition was seen as one of the major health problems facing the population, despite the nation's overall abundant food availability. In responding to it, a predominantly curative approach was adopted, and prevention was seen as only a secondary measure. Throughout the decade of 1980s, however, malnutrition decreased dramatically and could not be accounted for by the economic growth. It was also clear then that malnutrition was not a problem of specific nutrient deficiency. The underlying causes must be perceived as relating to a much broader perspective from micro to macro levels. In most situations, poverty is identified as the basic cause of malnutrition. The pitfall in tackling poverty was the belief that macro-economic development policies would have a trickle-down effect on the poor, and lead to improvement in the nutritional status of children and adults alike. Unfortunately this perception is not always correct due to unequal distribution of services and economic opportunities. Moreover, economic development without appropriate social policies will not bring about the expected nutritional achievements, as can be witnessed in Thailand before the 1970s. Despite these realizations, the difficult question facing planners and development sectors was how to implement programmes that fulfil the needs, and improve the nutritional situation, of rural population. At this crucial point, important research and implementation trials have been conducted in Thailand using a community-based approach and self-sustaining programmes in rural villages such as an integrated population, health, agriculture, nutrition and manpower for rural development and school lunches.

Malnutrition now needs to be addressed from different perspectives. Health professionals may see only the clinical and public health aspect of it; social welfare sees it as an equity problem in the distribution of services; agriculturists from food production, economists from equity of distribution of wealth; and nutritionists from a multifaceted nature. Pooling together, although rather difficult, is necessary. The difficulty facing most nations has been the translation of the holistic view in light of their socio-cultural, economic and political environment of practical programme.

As a result of the programmes, the conceptual framework consisting of four crucial components, namely, food supply, food consumption, health care and income generation were defined and have been used for nation-wide implementation.

From Thailand's experiences it is emphasized that efforts should not only be given to increasing food availability but to the communication of proper information which is also important for its success. Most of all, community participation obviously is the key element for sustainability.

May I now turn to the agricultural trade issue. Yesterday we listened very attentively to the Director-General's statement. He particularly mentioned

tropical commodity prices. My delegation fully shares the view expressed by the Director-General. As you know, the Multilateral Trade Negotiations are very important to Thailand which depends greatly on its ability to export for its sustained growth and development. Agriculture remains a key sector of Thailand's economy, as stated in paragraph 31. Thailand, along with 46 other countries, has an economy highly dependent on agricultural exports. It is the hope of my Government that all those industrialized countries and groups of countries, which have so far not shown their readiness to address the principal causes of agricultural trade problems, will join in world-wide efforts to bring about a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round as soon as possible. In addition, my delegation once again joins the previous speaker in encouraging FAO to continue its role of supporting the conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

Regarding sustainable agriculture and the environment, we would like to share with you our intention of coping with this issue. The Thai Government recognizes the problem and has placed emphasis on the consistency of both sustainability and conservation objectives. These policy objectives have been clearly underlined and implemented in the current Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan. Moreover, in responding further to the conclusion of UNCED on the sustainable agriculture and the environment issue at a conference held in Brazil this year, my Government, through the Ministry of Science and Technology, has recently issued a note on the environment which requires all development project proposals, regardless of whether in the public or private sector, to include a report on the expected impact on the proposed project. It will be required to study the subjects of plants, animals, soil, water, the atmosphere and human hygiene.

My final comment is on the regional review on Asia and the Pacific. It is true that poverty alleviation has been one of the four elements of the national development effort of many developing Asian countries. It is also true that Thailand achieved remarkable rates of economic growth but the proportion of the population living in absolute poverty did not decline. My Government has realized this fact and has tried to stimulate economic growth in the rural areas in various ways.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.





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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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CL 102/PV/4

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA  
(10 November 1992)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40

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

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas

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

- I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)
2. Election of three Vice-Chairmen, and designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (continued)
2. Election de trois Vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)
2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vais vous faire part des propositions de nomination des membres du Comité de Rédaction.

Différents contacts ont eu lieu tant entre les groupes régionaux qu'entre les deux grands groupes OCDE et Groupe des 77.

La proposition qui m'est soumise donnerait la présidence du Comité de rédaction au Canada en la personne de M. David Drake, Directeur des relations internationales de la forêt au Canada.

Je vous donne lecture des pays proposés: Angola, Argentine, Australie, Canada par le biais de son Président, France, République islamique d'Iran, Japon, Mexique, Pakistan, Philippines, Soudan, Suède, Zambie.

Est-ce qu'il y a des observations concernant cette proposition de Présidence du Comité de rédaction et des différents membres de ce Comité de rédaction?

Je souligne que M. David Drake est le Directeur des relations internationales de la forêt au Canada. Je n'ai pas dit qu'il était membre du Département de la forêt du Québec. Son bureau se situe à Hull, qui se trouve au Québec en face d'Ottawa, de l'autre côté de la rivière Saint Laurent.

Donc s'il n'y a pas de remarques, je considère que le Comité de rédaction est ainsi composé et que sa présidence en est assurée par le Canada.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
4. State of Food and Agriculture 1992 (continued)
4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. 1992 (suite)
4. El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación. 1992 (continuación)

**Pedro KANGA (Angola):** C'est pour nous un grand plaisir de vous voir une fois de plus présider cette 102ème session du Conseil. Grâce à votre expérience et à votre sagesse, nos assises seront couronnées de succès.

Nos félicitations s'adressent également aux trois Vice-Présidents et au Secrétariat pour le document qui est soumis à notre examen. La délégation angolaise n'oublie pas non plus de féliciter et de remercier M. Hjort pour l'exposé qu'il nous a présenté de façon simple et sans ambiguïté.

Ce document nous trace la situation mondiale, en présentant tour à tour le panorama économique mondial selon les régions, la production alimentaire et agricole, le commerce agricole, l'assistance extérieure et l'aide alimentaire, les pêches et les forêts. Il met en exergue la baisse totale de la production, accentuée dans les pays en développement et l'Afrique sub-saharienne en particulier; comme on peut le dire de la situation alimentaire précaire en Afrique australe, due aux calamités naturelles et aux situations provoquées par l'homme.

Plusieurs facteurs ont aggravé des problèmes qui sont désormais familiers aux pays en développement, notamment la dette extérieure, la difficulté d'accès aux marchés développés et la faiblesse des cours mondiaux des principaux produits qu'ils exportent. Ceci constitue pour les pays en développement une situation de détresse qui s'explique par un environnement général plutôt défavorable à l'agriculture.

Si les perspectives s'annoncent meilleures pour les pays industrialisés en termes de croissance en volume du commerce mondial, celles des pays en développement confrontés au protectionnisme et autres facteurs imposés par les pays développés sont décourageantes.

Je voudrais maintenant parler de l'Angola. Comme la communauté internationale le sait, mon pays a été confronté à deux problèmes majeurs: la guerre civile qui a sévi pendant 16 ans, et la sécheresse pendant plusieurs années consécutives.

Ces deux facteurs ont désarticulé le système de production paysanne et ont affecté l'état nutritionnel des populations dans leurs zones d'origine comme dans les villes. Ceci a eu comme effet direct l'exode rural et un accroissement de la population autour des grandes villes du pays, qui n'étaient pas préparées à l'accueillir.

Il y a à peu près un mois on envisageait avec optimisme notre avenir agricole, avec la garantie de la libre circulation des biens et des personnes, la promotion de la libre initiative dans le secteur productif des biens et des services, l'émergence de la tolérance politique. La situation agricole et alimentaire évoluait progressivement depuis la signature des accords de paix, unique alternative viable et logique pour une solution durable qui a permis la mise en place d'une politique agraire nationale fiable qui garantissait la sécurité alimentaire d'une part et le bien être social des populations aussi bien rurales qu'urbaines d'autre part. Des lois ont été promulguées, celle de la terre, par exemple, qui régleme la concession et l'usage des terres. Une campagne agricole de grande envergure a été réalisée, la première en temps de paix qui a amené à la mobilisation et à la canalisation d'une grande partie des ressources disponibles au secteur agraire afin de promouvoir la connaissance des capacités créatrices et productives sans oublier la reconquête de la dignité des populations rurales. Des quantités minimum de semences et d'instruments de travail de base ont été distribuées.

Cet effort du gouvernement qui a été soutenu par un élan de solidarité de la communauté internationale et l'optimisme qui nous animait tous s'est malheureusement évanoui suite à l'intolérance de certaines personnes incapables de jouer le jeu démocratique.

Nous assistons actuellement au retour de la situation de 1975 en raison d'une forte croissance des populations de réfugiés et de personnes déplacées, d'où l'impossibilité de mettre en oeuvre le programme tracé pour leur intégration socio-économique.

Pour terminer, ma délégation ne peut qu'exprimer son désappointement quant au manque de résultats substantiels et la persistance des déséquilibres dans les négociations de l'Uruguay Round. Nous espérons que les participants mettront en pratique la libéralisation du commerce pour l'agriculture car une guerre économique serait une catastrophe pour les pays en développement.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous émettons tous, le souhait que la situation difficile que connaît l'Angola puisse se régler par la paix, dans l'esprit que vous avez décrit, le plus rapidement possible.

**Piotr DABROWSKI (Pologne):** Je tiens à féliciter tout d'abord tous ceux qui ont contribué à la naissance du document CL 102/2, C'est un excellent dossier analytique.

Grâce à son contenu, nous voyons de façon encore plus nette et plus claire le problème de la situation mondiale dans le domaine qui nous préoccupe et dont nous sommes responsables.

Le monde contemporain est marqué par des processus que nous essayons de prévoir et d'anticiper: d'une part, la famine et la malnutrition, provoquées très souvent par des événements politiques, concernent des millions d'humains. D'autre part, les excédents que l'on est obligé de réduire ou de détruire. C'est une situation inacceptable aussi bien du point de vue moral que politique.

Des négociations laborieuses se déroulent au GATT et les mots "guerre commerciale" apparaissent dans les discours publics.

L'Europe des 12 procède à des réformes difficiles.

Enfin la transformation de l'économie, y compris le domaine agro-alimentaire, en Europe centrale et orientale s'accélère.

Voilà quelques éléments, mais il y a aussi d'autres régions et d'autres problèmes.

Nous nous rendons compte que la nature, l'ampleur et la rapidité des événements deviennent un défi de plus en plus important et difficile à relever, défi qu'aucun pays ne pourra relever seul.

La dynamique et la mondialisation croissante de la situation exigent un effort particulier. La FAO, riche de son expérience et forte de sa compétence, est la plateforme prédestinée pour procéder à des analyses objectives et pour donner des indications de base aux pays demandeurs. Parmi tant de théories,



de doctrines, de conceptions souvent contradictoires et dictées par des intérêts particuliers, ses indications sont nécessaires aussi bien au niveau national, régional, que dans la dimension internationale. Nous partageons donc sur ce point l'opinion exprimée par nos collègues d'Australie et de Colombie.

Pour répondre aux questions de l'alimentation, il est nécessaire d'accentuer et de rendre plus efficaces les efforts consacrés à l'agriculture, plus particulièrement aux politiques agricoles, pour qu'elles soient fiables et à la hauteur du défi.

Sur cette voie, nous rencontrons parfois plus de questions que de réponses. C'est pourquoi nous fondons de grands espoirs dont le Plan à moyen terme de la FAO.

Aussi bien le passé que des problèmes contemporains indiquent que l'agriculture et l'économie agro-alimentaire de l'Europe centrale et orientale devraient devenir l'un des objets d'intérêt particulier de la FAO. La nature d'une transition sans précédent veut que des solutions échappent inévitablement aux schémas connus. La Conférence régionale de Prague nous a donné l'occasion de voir de près la nature de cette transition et de prendre des décisions concrètes. Nous soutenons donc l'idée de renforcer le Bureau régional.

Pour ma part, je tiens à vous assurer que la Pologne est prête à participer le plus activement possible à toutes les initiatives internationales visant la reconstruction, la renaissance et le développement de l'agriculture.

Notre pays est le seul pays de l'ancien bloc communiste à avoir défendu et maintenu une agriculture privée qui fonctionnait dans des conditions proches de l'économie de marché malgré son milieu économique artificiel et absurde. C'est en partant de cette situation que nous définissons les objectifs, les instruments et les institutions nécessaires en fonction des besoins et des possibilités. Nous profitons des expériences mondiales, nous cherchons des points de repère dans les différentes périodes et étapes du développement économique du monde, à la recherche de situations adéquates; nous prenons en considération les erreurs connues. Il est de notre devoir de partager le plus possible notre expérience avec les pays qui cherchent comme nous la voie vers une économie normale.

Je tiens aussi à vous informer que notre pays, définissant les objectifs de sa politique agricole active, vise parallèlement aussi bien la productivité, la restructuration et l'efficacité que la protection de l'environnement, partageant largement l'analyse faite au Sommet de Rio de Janeiro. Avec quelques régions, notamment la Silésie, gravement touchées par la pollution, nous disposons toujours de plusieurs millions d'hectares prédestinés à la production biologique favorisée davantage par la chute de l'utilisation des engrais chimiques et des pesticides.

Pour conclure, comme il s'agit de la dernière session à laquelle nous participons en tant qu'Etat Membre du Conseil de la FAO, j'ai l'honneur de remercier le Président et tous nos collègues de cette coopération aussi fructueuse qu'amicale en souhaitant plein succès à nos successeurs. Merci de votre attention.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant de la Pologne de son intervention particulièrement dense. Je crois qu'il a raison de souhaiter un large soutien aux bureaux régionaux. Je le remercie également des informations qu'il nous a données concernant l'agriculture de son pays. Nous lui souhaitons plein succès.

Mohmed Said HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): At the outset I should like, on behalf of my delegation, to express our pleasure at seeing you, Mr Chairman, presiding over the deliberations of our Council Session with your customary patience and wisdom.

I should also like to thank Mr Hjort, the Deputy Director-General, for his brilliant presentation of this excellent comprehensive document.

The document under consideration contains important information in the fields of agriculture and food production. However, there are many negative aspects resulting from the adverse economic situation in both developed and developing countries. The developing countries suffer from weak growth rates, in addition to high population growth rates, resulting in severe shortage in the supply of food in most developing countries. In addition, they suffer from weak infrastructure, fragile economic structures, drought desertification, wars and the debt burden.

All this reflected itself negatively on the agricultural sector, resulting in increasing migration from rural areas to urban centres, and from developing countries, thus constituting a threat to the human resources in developing countries.

We were hopeful before attending this session to see some signs of hope in the GATT Round negotiations, but the information we are getting is really disappointing. The prices of raw materials and agricultural products of the developing countries are in continual decline, whilst the prices of agricultural inputs have increased, as well as the cost of technology, thus overburdening the developing countries.

The situation becomes increasingly worse for developing countries when we know that the developed countries which import these raw materials are imposing more protectionism and are subsidizing their production. In such a situation, the developing countries will not be able to develop their resources, conserve their environment, or repay their due debts and the debt service, let alone feed their populations.

The logic of evolution calls for moving a step forward in the field of agricultural production. We are hopeful that we shall be able to support semimanufactured goods to the developed countries. This will create employment opportunities and will raise our revenues from agricultural production, and it will be an incentive for the producer and for more production. However, in most cases the industrialized countries, in the case of any materials, insist on importing them as raw materials. This deprives us of the chances of development and growth.

The Sudan is one of the largest countries in Africa as far as area is concerned, and it is endowed with natural resources. The agricultural sector, both plant and animal production, is the major sector in the economic and social structure employing the majority of the population in the Sudan. In the

past, governments neglected policies in the agricultural sector, and they did not pay attention to that sector because they lacked sound vision. The agricultural sector became a burden on the Sudanese economy, failing to provide food for the population at a time when scientists predicted that the Sudan could be the food basket of the world. Deserts encroached, drought wreaked havoc and people suffered as a result of this lack of vision.

Then the national salvation revolution took control and used consultation and equity, and gave the utmost priority to the agricultural sector, orienting all the policies of the State for the development and modernization of this sector.

The agricultural policy pursued is aimed at preserving our valuable natural resources within the framework of the conservation of the environment, paying more attention to the development of our plant and animal production and providing food security. This has been accompanied by the introduction of overall reforms in the structures of the macro-economy by moving towards a free market economy, by giving incentives to the private sector to invest in agricultural production. An investment bill was enacted to encourage nationals as well as foreigners to invest in agricultural and industrial fields, with emphasis on the provision of assistance in the form of inputs and the infrastructure. This policy is putting more emphasis on food production in the irrigated sector instead of the vulnerable rainfed sector. This led to the production in the 1991/92 season, in spite of insufficient rainfall, of 3.2 million tonnes of coarse grains and 860 000 tonnes of wheat. This season, 1992/93, thanks to the good preparations for the new agricultural season and favourable rainfall we expect a bumper crop, God willing.

A joint FAO/WFP mission will shortly visit the Sudan to assess our production and our needs. The Sudan finds itself in a peculiar situation in that the country has sufficient grains and cereals to meet its needs while at the same time we are in need of assistance from our friends. This is because most of the agricultural production is in the hands of the private sector and the Government cannot purchase cereals and distribute them free of charge to the needy, those who lost everything during the drought periods, or those who still suffer the consequences of an inherited imposed war.

The move forward of the modern agricultural sector in my country is being assisted by international organizations such as the FAO which is implementing a number of projects in some major areas, and the World Food Programme which is providing food assistance for the areas affected by the war and the drought.

We are grateful and proud of what these organizations are doing, but their actions will not be effective unless there is an improvement in the international economic environment, unless the debt problem is solved in a manner that will lead to a balanced and fair international trade, and unless we are allowed to get intermediate technology in the field of agriculture and animal production.

**Nedilson JORGE (Brazil):** I shall be very brief as I do not want to be repetitive. I should just like to support what has been said by the Argentinian delegation about the MERCOSUR. Brazil believes that the comments made by Argentina should be taken into account in order to have a complete

overall review of the MERCOSUR and its insertion in the world economy and trade.

**Hugo TRIVELLI FRANZOLINI (Chile):** En primer término, señor Presidente, y como ya lo han hecho muchos de los que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, no podría menos que agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO por la documentación presentada con una tan clara exposición sobre el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y, enseguida, con una exposición de los problemas relacionados con la nutrición, el hambre, la alimentación, el medio ambiente, y varios otros temas más expuestos con galanura y maestría.

Quiero agradecer también, señor Presidente, el discurso magnífico con que iniciamos esta reunión por parte del señor Director General de la FAO. El nos ha dado una visión amplia y profunda de cuáles son los problemas que está enfrentando no sólo la agricultura mundial, sino los problemas que está enfrentando el planeta. Una visión comprensiva de estos problemas. Por esto se lo agradecemos muy profundamente.

Quisiera felicitar al Presidente Independiente del Consejo porque otra vez le estamos viendo presidir nuestras deliberaciones y, al mismo tiempo, felicitar a los tres Vicepresidentes designados por nosotros en esta reunión.

Yo querría referirme a muchos puntos del informe, pero, como todo lo que se plantea en él en términos generales, no ha merecido de parte de quienes me han precedido en el uso de la palabra puntos contradictorios, sino que más bien reafirman los planteamientos que se hacen, yo también quiero hacer esta reafirmación a la posición de la FAO en la mayoría de los problemas que plantea.

Voy a concretar mi intervención, que no va a ser muy larga, a algunas observaciones relacionadas con la economía chilena, especialmente la economía agrícola, a la cual se refiere el informe muy concreta y explícitamente, pero también muy puntualmente. Se plantea ahí, por ejemplo, fenómenos y hechos como la importancia de la política macroeconómica y sus efectos sobre las políticas sectoriales. En nuestra experiencia, la experiencia de los últimos años en mi país, en Chile, nosotros tenemos claro que las políticas macroeconómicas y macrosociales influyen más en el desarrollo o en el subdesarrollo de la agricultura que las propias políticas puntuales para el sector, que a veces quedan anuladas, neutralizadas por las políticas macroeconómicas. Así, por ejemplo, es mucho más importante una política cambiaria, una política monetaria, una política fiscal, que políticas específicas para apoyar el sector agrícola, como podría ser tecnología o políticas de comercialización. Si la macroeconomía funciona en un sentido distinto de las políticas puntuales sectoriales, evidentemente que estas últimas no tienen mayor efecto.

Ahora bien, en Chile han estado predominando fundamentalmente e influyendo en el sector agrícola más las políticas macroeconómicas y macrosociales que las puntuales. Es así como la situación en términos generales y globales de la economía chilena ha llegado en los últimos dos o tres años a mostrar un crecimiento de la economía global del seis por ciento anual y un crecimiento de la población del uno por ciento anual, aproximadamente. Si esta disminución, si esta reducción de la tasa de crecimiento demográfico no es espontánea, obedece también a políticas de tipo macroeconómico muy

importantes. La inflación ha bajado del 28 por ciento en 1989 a algo así como el 13 en este año de 1992, también debido a las políticas macroeconómicas.

La desocupación, que algunos años atrás llegó a casi al 30 por ciento de la población activa, ha bajado al cuatro y medio por ciento este año; o sea, es un récord histórico en el desarrollo del país una desocupación tan baja. La tasa de ahorro interno ha crecido al 19 por ciento, equivalente del producto nacional bruto, y la tasa de inversión es de, aproximadamente, el 21 por ciento de ahorro externo, que se canalizan en inversión extranjera en Chile.

Esta es la situación global; pero la situación agrícola de Chile podría caracterizarse por los siguientes hechos. Hay un sector moderno que crece con vigor y dinamismo empresarial. Es un gran generador de empleo y de productos de exportación: frutas, hortalizas y productos forestales. Este sector exporta alrededor de ciento cincuenta millones de cajas de fruta al año. A esto estamos llegando en los últimos años, y no por generación espontánea, vuelvo a insistir que esto es el fruto de políticas de largo plazo que han venido instrumentándose desde antes; o sea, éstos son como alrededor de doce millones de toneladas de fruta que tienen su demanda principalmente en el Hemisferio Norte. Nosotros estamos en el Hemisferio Sur y producimos la fruta en primavera y verano, cuando en el Hemisferio Norte es invierno. Esto nos favorece realmente de una manera muy importante.

Produce también, señor Presidente, la agricultura moderna parte importante de los productos de consumo interno: trigo, maíz, azúcar, con una característica muy especial en superficies relativamente pequeñas, pero contando con los mejores rendimientos del mundo en rendimientos unitarios por hectárea. En remolacha creo que somos el primer país del mundo en rendimiento. En maíz estamos muy cerca de los récords mundiales, y en trigo también. Produce, además, buena parte de la carne y de la leche que consume.

Junto a todo este sector que podría ser de producción agropecuaria está el bosque; el bosque nativo tiene varios millones de hectáreas, pero ha sido descuidado y produce poco; pero, en cambio, la plantación artificial de bosques llega ya a un millón y medio de hectáreas, con un crecimiento anual de entre cien y ciento diez mil hectáreas por año de crecimiento. El bosque se explota, y no tengo la información de cuántas hectáreas por año se están cortando, pero, en todo caso, el aumento de la superficie plantada es de más de cien mil hectáreas por año, con especies, fundamentalmente, de pinos y eucaliptos.

Este es el sector que pudiéramos llamar moderno. El sector tradicional en que prevalece el minifundio, escasamente tecnificado y con dificultades para acceder a los servicios contribuye con una proporción importante del abastecimiento nacional de alimentos básicos; encierra bolsones de extrema pobreza y marginación y constituye un gran desafío para la política agraria inserta en la política macroeconómica y social. Realmente, Chile es un país que tiene alrededor de trece millones y medio de habitantes, de los cuales hasta hace un tiempo atrás se estimaba que había cinco millones de pobres, y de éstos dos millones de indigentes. De éstos una buena parte de esta población está en el sector rural, en este sector que podríamos llamar tradicional, pobreza, minifundio, trabajadores sin tierra.

El informe de la FAO destaca que la situación actual de la agricultura chilena es el resultado de las políticas aplicadas por los diversos gobiernos, algo que ya veníamos diciendo al comienzo de nuestra posición. Desde luego, el

gobierno actual ha sabido sacar partido de los resultados de estas políticas. De hecho, las ha continuado algunas de ellas y también se mantiene toda esta política dentro de una estrategia de crecimiento con equidad. O sea, ir tratando de superar ese tremendo problema de la pobreza. Había cinco millones, y actualmente en dos años y medio del actual gobierno se estima que han bajado en un millón los pobres que han dejado de ser ya tan pobres y también han disminuido los indigentes. Y eso es por efecto del progreso, el desarrollo, como veníamos hablando, y de la creación de empleo, que es uno de los medios para ir superando esta situación de pobreza.

Entre las políticas aplicadas, señor Presidente, vale mencionar políticas que, como digo, no son de este gobierno exclusivamente; son políticas que han venido aplicándose ya con cierta continuidad desde hace quince, veinte, treinta, cuarenta años.

Entre las políticas aplicables vale mencionar los planes generales y sectoriales agrícolas pesqueros y forestales. Entre los planes sectoriales están las frutas, hortalizas y semillas, los planes ganaderos y los planes avícolas, la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural, que modificó la estructura de la tenencia de la tierra y del agua y movilizó a la población campesina.

No hay un reconocimiento explícito general, pero mi opinión, la opinión de la delegación de mi país en este momento, es que si se hubiera hecho esa reforma agraria hace veinte o veinticinco años atrás, posiblemente toda esta movilización que se está viendo ahora no tendría la misma velocidad y el mismo ritmo de intensidad que si no se hubiera hecho la reforma agraria. La reforma agraria no sólo modificó la estructura de la tenencia de la tierra y del agua, sino que fundamentalmente movilizó a la población campesina, le dio un sentido de ser humano; un sentido de ser, no de estar, de ser seres humanos, muy importante.

La investigación agrícola es otra de las políticas de largo plazo y la correspondiente transferencia a los usuarios. La permanente preocupación por la defensa sanitaria vegetal y animal. Creo que conviene aquí decir, una vez más, en este foro de la FAO, que Chile ha estado desde hace muchísimos años libre de la mosca del Mediterráneo, y que solamente tenemos reapariciones en el extremo norte del país porque viene de infecciones de los países vecinos; pero la zona frutícola y de producción de hortalizas no tiene mosca de la fruta y, en todo caso, hay un desierto de dos mil kilómetros entre el norte de Chile y la zona productora de frutas, un desierto donde hay barreras para cuidar de que no pase fruta que pudiera venir infectada y hay todo un sistema para impedir la reinfección de las zonas realmente productoras de fruta. Hay vigilancia permanente.

El otro caso importante e interesante es que nosotros, en nuestro país, comenzamos la campaña de erradicación de la fiebre aftosa ya en el año 1968, y la declaración universal de que Chile está libre de la fiebre aftosa se vio años atrás. Hemos tenido reinfecciones, pero han sido prontamente dominadas y saneadas las zonas. Estamos libres de fiebre aftosa; estamos libres de mosca en la fruta, y no quiero seguir enumerando las enfermedades animales y pestes vegetales de las cuales también estamos libres por esta acción vigilante. Además, estamos protegidos por una cordillera muy alta, por el mar Pacífico por el lado poniente y por este desierto del Norte y, sobre todo, por el profesionalismo de nuestros ingenieros agrónomos y médicos veterinarios que están atentos a que no reaparezcan éstas y otras enfermedades.

Otra de las políticas importantes que se han puesto en práctica en Chile desde hace tiempo es la educación elemental, la técnica y la profesional, la capacitación de los distintos estamentos del sector agrícola y la participación de la comunidad organizada en el quehacer nacional. Estos son puntos que están en el programa de la FAO y que son parte de una política permanente del país.

No está demás, también, mencionar aquí que la inversión fiscal en el desarrollo del regadío y de las comunicaciones, con más o con menos, ha estado siempre vigente para permitir la comunicación de los productores agrícolas con el resto de la comunidad nacional.

Por su parte, el mar -tenemos cinco mil kilómetros de costa, de Norte a Sur, larguísima,- permite una pesca de alrededor de seis millones de toneladas al año. Esto en los últimos años porque antes no había habido una política muy especializada de promoción de la actividad privada para lograr estos récords que tenemos ahora. Esta pesca de seis millones de toneladas equivale, aproximadamente, al cinco y medio o al seis por ciento de la pesca mundial que bordea entre los noventa y seis y los cien millones de toneladas anuales.

En la situación que estamos tenemos que enfrentar el gran desafío de conjugar una política de desarrollo rural con una de desarrollo urbano, donde uno de sus principales objetivos debe revalorizar el espacio rural y superar la contradicción en que estamos inmersos, en que el éxito del desarrollo económico global, que ya hemos descrito en grandes líneas, en un esquema de economía social de mercado, en que hemos liberalizado bastante el manejo de la economía - bastante, yo diría - tal vez más allá de lo absolutamente necesario, tiende a repercutir desfavorablemente en el desarrollo agrícola porque es esto, por ejemplo, una expresión de todo esto que estamos diciendo, que el balance del comercio exterior agrícola, que deja setecientos u ochocientos millones de saldo favorable, es mayor que el balance del comercio exterior global del país. La agricultura está produciéndole dólares al país. Por otro lado, hay toda una corriente de inversión de capital externo, de manera que la llegada de divisas, de dólares, es bastante importante. Por tanto, este hecho está produciendo una revalorización del peso y esta revalorización tiende a desalentar las exportaciones y tiende a estimular la importación, en competencia con la producción nacional, especialmente de productos agrícolas básicos.

A todo esto contribuye también, a este hecho que estoy planteando yo, a esta contradicción del crecimiento y la tendencia del sector agrícola, especialmente en la producción de alimentos básicos, a estancarse. Está también el proteccionismo, realmente exagerado, que caracteriza la política de los países industrializados. El pequeño agricultor no puede competir con su producción, que a veces no es muy tecnificada y con bajo rendimiento, con la producción que llega de los países industrializados subsidiada, protegida, estimulada.

Hacemos votos desde nuestro punto de vista por la pronta y saludable solución de la Ronda de Uruguay dentro del marco del GATT, procurando liberalizar el comercio mundial agrícola, buscando beneficios para los países en desarrollo.

Por último, señor Presidente, quiero agradecer a la FAO los programas de cooperación técnica y su asistencia a nuestras políticas de promoción al desarrollo de la mujer y de la juventud rural y, en general, las políticas de

la FAO que son inspiradoras en buena medida de las políticas que el país está siguiendo, tanto en lo global como en lo específico del desarrollo rural.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Sr. Embajador Trivelli, por su intervención. Quisiera felicitarle por su exposición tan completa de la situación de su país. Creo que su país, desde el punto de vista de la agricultura, está desarrollándose a gran velocidad.

**A.M. LARYEA (Ghana):** I know time is not on our side, so I will try to be brief and have no unavoidable repetitions. May I associate myself with the previous speakers and express my delegation's congratulations to you on being the Chairman to steer the affairs of this 102nd Session of the Council. I welcome the well-deserved and unanimous election of your three Vice-Chairmen to assist you in your noble tasks. The Ghana delegation will give you full cooperation. Permit me also to congratulate your Secretariat on the meticulous and analytical presentation of the working documents they have provided to guide us in our deliberations.

Mr Chairman, during the previous Session of the Council and at various international, multinational and bilateral fora, various delegations have identified the continuing imbalance of trade as the major weak point or factor responsible for the crippling economies of many, if not all, developing countries. The main causes and effects of this inequitable global economic order are well known to us, and one can only express utter dismay at our inability to arrive at a mutually beneficial conclusion. In this connection my delegation supports the delegation of Indonesia in drawing attention to the concern of our Leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement during their recent Summit in Jakarta at the dismal failure to bring the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations to a successful end, thus ensuring without further delay a balanced world trade regime that will take into account the development needs and interests of the developing countries. The persistent appeals to our industrialized partners by the Director-General of the FAO, on behalf of the developing countries of the Organization, to endeavour to bring about a more equitable and fairer economic and trade order by ensuring significant improvements in the prices of our primary agricultural products should be appreciated and supported by all in concrete terms.

My delegation views with satisfaction, the observations made by the EEC delegation on the Structural Adjustment Programmes which some of us have had to implement. It was painful, to say the least, but with bold determination, sacrifice and pragmatic programmes such as the Medium-Term Agricultural Development Programme of Ghana upon which we have embarked we shall definitely alleviate the hardships and sufferings of our peoples by ensuring (i) food security; (ii) rural employment opportunities; (iii) improvements in our balance of payments; and (iv) providing a framework for the efficient allocation of public and private sector resources in the agriculture sector for the realization of our agriculture potential.

Ghana's agricultural development programmes which have culminated in our ten-year Medium-Term Agricultural Development Programme have continued to ensure for us an agricultural growth rate of more than 6 per cent recorded since 1988. The present food and agriculture situation in my country therefore gives no cause for anxiety.



We believe that serious considerations should be given to the implementation of the various recommendations by my colleagues, African Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development at their biennial Regional Conferences held during the past decade. To this end, I wish it to be placed on record that my major concern at this Session is to draw urgent attention to the "Accra Declaration on Sound Environment for Sustainable Agriculture in Africa" solemnly adopted at the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa and which appeals to the FAO and the donor community to mobilize new and additional resources to supplement our individual national efforts in the following areas:

(a) conservation and protection of natural resources for sustainable development; (b) food security (notably, for the implementation of recommendations of the forthcoming International Conference on Nutrition and through the launching of new special programmes and funds for Africa); (c) effective and active people's participation with special attention on women involvement; (d) post-harvest management (including agro-processing, storage and marketing); (e) national capacity building; (f) inter-regional cooperation in the fields of communication, infrastructure, trade and agricultural shows.

My delegation believes that it is essential to re-echo the tenets and importance of the declaration because it augurs well for the revamping of our deteriorating agriculture situations in the region.

FAO should be encouraged in all spheres - financial, moral, etc. to continue with its noble task.

Finally, on behalf of my delegation I would like to congratulate Dr Saouma and his staff on the excellent work done over the years at least to bring smiles on the faces of the poor and the hungry in various parts of the world and in the developing regions in particular.

**CHAIRMAN:** I think the Declaration of Accra is important and that the international community will follow its recommendations.

Nous en arrivons à la clôture des orateurs membres du Conseil. Nous en avons entendu à peu près une quarantaine et nous avons maintenant quatre observateurs qui souhaitent prendre la parole.

**Jerome T. KARUGABA (Observer for Uganda):** My delegation is very satisfied with the very efficient manner in which you have so far guided our session's deliberations.

We congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election and also welcome the non-members who, because they have hope in our Organization, are willing to share their ideas with us. We hope very soon to share their experiences too.

My delegation would like to register a vote of thanks to the Director-General on his opening speech in which he has succinctly summarized for us the problems of the world; our Organization's triumphs and tribulations and the strong commitment of the hundreds of international servants, in spite of the inadequate rewards. We would like to encourage them to continue in this noble service and to assure them that although they may neither be masters of the

sea nor the wind, they sail on an understanding sea with a listening wind, both of which should be able to reward them, hopefully soon.

My delegation has been very happy with the incisive manner in which the Deputy Director-General has been able to introduce document CL 102/2. This paper's presentation and several others before the Session are a testimony to the efficiency of the Secretariat.

Effects of UN Restructuring. On a general point, I would like to share with the Director-General the fears expressed in page 8 of his speech. Centralization may have its benefits but it has also very often a minus side.

FAO is in the hearts of hundreds of millions of people. So far it has distinguished itself by the quick response it has made to the cries of the needy. It has been able to make direct appeals to its fund givers and to monitor food availability through its hardworking servants. With centralization in New York, we fear all the above capabilities may be engulfed in the huge bureaucracy. It could produce a type of gridlock on an international scale that might lead to the deaths of millions before the bureaucracy has time to respond to their needs. Money may eventually be saved for peacekeeping and development but unless centralization is done gradually, while the present serving bodies continue their work, it could be difficult to keep peace among the present hungry millions, let alone to argue with them about development!

Self-sufficiency in food. Let me say something about Uganda, which I know very well.

Uganda has been and is still able to produce enough food for its people, despite the annual increase of 3 percent in its population. We believe there are several countries in sub-Saharan Africa and perhaps in other continents with situations similar to Uganda's. Although there are many causes why food may not be sufficient, two are the major ones, at least in sub-Saharan Africa. These have been political upheavals and natural catastrophes.

While the international community has been trying to help in lessening the effects of natural disasters, such as FAO's continuous monitoring, emergency food aid and perhaps reforestation, not much has been done on the political disasters. So far what I am going to say has not been addressed by anyone at this Session; yet it is very relevant and also may be unpalatable.

Probably half of the huge millions of those in need of food are persons who are either refugees from political or racial persecution or have been displaced within their countries and are unable to grow enough food for themselves as they used to do.

While there will always be good people in the world to help the needy, recipient countries of food and other aid must do more to reduce these upheavals that bring hunger and death to their own people. Political or racial intolerance must be abandoned or reduced, so that people can settle and care for themselves. The international community, especially those who are able to do so, can exert influence and persuasion on those countries with such problems.

Uganda is a good example. With most of our people who had run out into refuge now back, we are again able to produce adequate amounts of food and are able

to export some to our neighbours. The recent continent-wide drought, of course, has also hit us. However, the shortage of food in some regions of the country is mainly because our transport infrastructure is not adequate enough to shift food from one area to another. It is in this area that we still require help.

The problem of finding markets for Third World produce, especially those of the tropics, is a great one. We are therefore heartened by the Director-General's call - page 5 of his speech - for a revaluation of agricultural exports from these regions. For Uganda it has been a disaster. Since the collapse of the International Coffee Agreement, our foreign exchange earnings from coffee (formerly equal to more than three-quarters of the total) have collapsed to only about one-third. Our efforts to diversify by the sale of food produce has not been able to cover the loss. With tighter markets in the developed world, we do not hope to do much even if we register surpluses. The failure so far of the Uruguay Round is a blow to our efforts and hopes for the future. The increasing low prices offered for our similarly increasing agricultural raw produce discourage and destabilize a country such as Uganda whose exports are mainly agricultural.

With regard to natural disaster, my delegation appeals to food aid donors to continue. We are grateful to all those who have come to the aid of Africa, especially to the Horn of Africa. Some of these disasters, like the expanding deserts and the frequent droughts, are well known and their cycles have been recorded. It is likely that even if some help is given today to countries with this type of problem, vast amounts of food will continue to be needed for a long time to come. We would wish to suggest that if more technical aid were given to neighbouring countries which have the possibility of producing more food, supplies could be purchased nearer to those in need. Such foods could reach where they are required much more quickly, perhaps even when some may still be fresh and more acceptable to the populace.

In this way producing countries could earn what they cannot now earn from the tight markets of the developed world. Besides, some of the recipient countries, even if they have been hit by such disasters, could obtain fair amounts of food directly from the neighbouring producing states, which has often happened in the past in countries of East Africa.

With regard to fisheries, as you may have seen on page 71 of the document CL 102/2, Uganda receives some of its export earnings from fish out of Lake Victoria. Over 50 percent of the country's animal protein is estimated to come mainly from fish. Considering that the vast part of the lake is in Uganda, a higher catch could be made in order to increase exports. However, the Ugandan side of the Lake is now being choked by a nasty weed. With the help of FAO some time ago, Uganda found it was able to destroy the water hyacinth and stop it from spreading and making fishing hazardous. However, considering the very fast spread of the weed, there is now more urgent need for an international effort to fight it, otherwise, in a decade or two, it could easily reach the shores of Kenya and Tanzania and even reach our second largest lake, Kyoga, along the Nile. I appeal to FAO to raise our alarm on this matter to the international level. I also appeal that, while efforts are made to destroy this weed, care be taken not to endanger the water environment.

While still on the subject of Lake Victoria, I should like to raise a point of advice which Uganda has raised before. The huge Nile perch, known as Mputa

in Uganda, has, as is said on page 71, destroyed between 200 and 300 species of other fish in the lake. It would be prudent, therefore, that whenever new species of fish are to be introduced into lakes or rivers elsewhere proper research and precautions be taken to ensure that the lakes or rivers do not end up like Lake Victoria.

Uganda has several other lakes and rivers from which it obtains its fish. In the 1960s many Ugandans were producing fish in ponds constructed near their homes. We can still do this, but need more technical advice and initial inputs to the smaller farmer. Through you, Mr Chairman, and through the FAO, I appeal to both developed and developing countries which may have modern methods to farm fish to help us. With regard to lakes, Ugandan fishermen now need good, safe boats and facilities, such as refrigerators and clean stores and prompt transport to the fish markets or the two factories which we now have in the country.

With regard to Nile perch and tilapia fishing, we have a new Italian-built factory which produces international-class smoked fish and could easily sell frozen fish if reliable markets were found overseas. At the present time only a small quantity is being exported.

Finally, all the work proposed above requires money to enable it to be carried out. It is imperative therefore that FAO be given the funds it requires in order to fulfil its duty.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your comprehensive intervention. I should like to stress the necessity for interventions to be brief, especially interventions by Observers. We have a lot of matters to examine.

Cet après-midi, il nous reste encore à examiner le problème de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et nous avons déjà pris du retard par rapport à notre ordre du jour de cette quatrième séance plénière.

Je vous ferai donc une proposition tout en espérant ne pas avoir à la refaire dans les jours qui viennent: ce serait de prolonger notre séance afin d'en terminer cet après-midi avec les points 4 et 5.

Y a-t-il des remarques à ce sujet?

Tel n'est pas le cas, il en sera ainsi décidé.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda.

**T.A. ANUMUDU (Observer for Nigeria):** Mr Chairman, permit me to join the many previous speakers who have congratulated you on your election as Chairman of the 102nd Session of the Council. In several ways, through wise guidance and fair apportionment of time, the leadership of a Council contributes in no small measure to its success. We are indeed assured of these qualities from you and are confident of the success of our deliberations.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate the Secretariat on producing the very illuminating document CL 102/2 and its supplements which have formed the basis of this debate.

It is the intention of my delegation to take up only a few of the numerous issues raised in the document which we believe bear very significantly on agricultural production and the well-being of peoples in the developing world.

Of serious concern to us is the decline in price of primary agricultural products, where, even given the quantitative increase of production, we still realise the same value, if not much less, than in previous decades. This decline in price of our commodities unfortunately comes at a time when the prices of our imports of manufactures are soaring prohibitively. It is thus clear that the well-being of countries in the developing world cannot but suffer deterioration and worsening living conditions.

A second concern is the observed net outflow of funds from developing countries, those countries which can least afford such a phenomenon. Our concept of aid is that it should assist us to increase the volume of our investable funds, but, when it turns out that we repay more than we receive, the intention of such aid programmes misses its objective. Indeed, the procedures involved in obtaining these loan facilities and the conditionality in their operations cannot but create serious bottlenecks in the easy application of these loans to our projects. Thus several years pass, with several visiting missions to our countries, and the draw-down dates of such loans stretch into years.

With these unfavourable circumstances, we still find that the little we produce for export is subjected to serious procedural hindrances in restrictions on market access, the operation of preferential treatment to some areas and the rather prohibitive quality-control conditions which are insisted upon. We are not averse to the highest grades of agricultural products being traded. We believe, however, that part of the role of FAO should be to assist our countries in improving the quality of our products for the international market.

I should like to refer to the subject of research on the improvement of productivity of our agriculture. With regard to the improvement of agriculture in the African continent, and particularly in the West African sub-region, serious attention should be paid to the contribution of relevant research, readily made available to farmers, in order to enhance the level of our production. FAO could greatly assist agricultural development in the sub-region if it consciously collaborated with our countries in agricultural research.

This renewed interest in agricultural research in the sub-region has been spearheaded by my country which, in accordance with the resolution of the Council of the Ministers of Agriculture in West and Central Africa, organized with the Special Programme of African Agricultural Research a regional seminar last October on improving research in the region. We look to the supporting countries and agencies, of which FAO is one, for a greater level of assistance in this all-important issue of research. It is only when the right type of soil, the highest quality of seeds and the right amount of water are applied to agriculture that we can look forward to bumper harvests. It is the role of research to make and propose the proper combination of these factors for optimum production.

It is gratifying to note that my country, Nigeria, in paying attention to these factors, has recorded some significant improvement in our production of root crops. This is not so much a result of the imposition of restrictions on imports - as the document we have here has indicated - as the adoption by our farmers of improved seeds and the successful combatting of plant pests and diseases. In this regard the contribution of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and the role of the National Agricultural Research System deserves acknowledgement.

Changes in the prices of Nigerian farm products have resulted in the fall in value of our currency, a procedure which thereby nominally raised in money terms the earnings of our farmers, but in real terms, and vis-à-vis foreign exchange earnings, it has not been quite so significant. The impact of Nigeria's structural adjustment programme has been to remove agricultural product pricing from the monopolies of the Commodity Boards and open farm prices to market forces.

My country's search for food security has been the main driving force of improved and increased production in cereals. Indeed, we have lifted the ban on the importation of wheat. But the vast potential for all types of grain production in the country is yet to be exploited, and even with that we are importing.

My last point concerns the issue of correct statistical data on agricultural products. To us in Nigeria this is a burning issue, where the general level of the farming population is not dedicated to serious quantification and record-keeping. We perceive the role of FAO in this matter of agricultural data and the proper processing of such data to be crucial in improving our capability to yield authentic and reliable data. FAO and UNDP should therefore leave no stone unturned in assisting us to realize more dependable figures for production.

Having shared these comments with you, permit me to record the very favourable association which we have had with FAO on a number of our projects which they are funding and supervising.

**Sidaty AIDRA (Observateur du Sénégal):** En dépit d'une longue liste d'orateurs du Conseil vous avez bien voulu, Monsieur le Président, et nous vous en savons gré, donner la possibilité à mon pays, le Sénégal, de participer à cet important débat. Nous avons tenu à nous inscrire sur ce point, en raison de l'importance toute particulière que nous lui accordons.

Mais avant d'entrer dans le vif du sujet, permettez-moi de vous dire que c'est pour ma délégation et pour moi-même un plaisir toujours renouvelé de vous voir à la Présidence du Conseil. Dès les premières sessions de votre mandat, vous avez habitué cet important organe de notre institution à travailler, certes, dans les délais impartis, mais aussi et surtout à travailler dans un esprit constructif et pragmatique.

Voilà les raisons pour lesquelles ma délégation continuera comme par le passé à vous apporter, comme à l'ensemble du Bureau du Conseil, sa coopération la plus active.

C'est dans cet esprit que, observateur, mais observateur attentif des travaux du Conseil, le Sénégal entend apporter sa contribution au débat sur les grandes questions qui nous préoccupent tous, pays développés comme pays en développement et FAO elle-même.

Ce faisant nous tenterons, dans la déclaration de caractère général que nous nous proposons de faire, d'être aussi bref et concis que possible en intervenant sur cette question importante relative à la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1992,

Ma délégation a bien évidemment étudié la documentation préparée par le Secrétariat sur cette question, et en particulier le document fondamental CL 102/2; documentation de haute qualité s'il en est, qui présente une analyse objective de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Comme beaucoup d'autres délégations, nous partageons les idées essentielles qui sont développées dans cette documentation. Nous avons noté au passage l'optimisme affiché en ce qui concerne les perspectives de reprise économique dans les pays en développement et notamment en Afrique. Nous aurions bien voulu partager cet optimisme, mais dans le même temps nous devons nous rendre à l'évidence et la réalité nous impose peut-être un peu plus de prudence.

Il suffit de regarder autour de nous: les termes de l'échange continuent de se dégrader et bien des délégations, dont celle de la Côte d'Ivoire, l'ont rappelé; les flux de capitaux ne retrouvent toujours pas leur direction originelle vers les pays en développement pour soutenir les efforts de développement de ces derniers; la dette des pays en développement continue, notamment en Afrique, d'être un lourd fardeau malgré les efforts des créanciers et de la communauté internationale dans l'effacement et le rééchelonnement de ces dettes à des conditions de faveur; les politiques et programmes d'ajustement structurels continuent de prélever un lourd tribut social dans les pays en voie de développement-qui se sont engagés dans cette voie; la croissance du PIB reste toujours marquée par une forte croissance démographique qui exerce, de manière d'ailleurs conjointe avec un certain type d'agriculture et d'autres facteurs, une lourde pression sur l'environnement; les investissements dans le secteur agricole continuent de baisser; les marchés sont toujours étroits; l'épargne est difficile à mobiliser et la formation brute du capital se réduit de plus en plus; l'instauration de l'économie de marché par la libéralisation du commerce et la privatisation n'a pas encore positivement répondu aux attentes des pays africains.

A tout cela s'ajoutent bien sûr les taux d'intérêt élevés dans les pays industrialisés, les incertitudes qui pèsent sur les négociations du GATT de l'Uruguay Round, et les difficultés, par ailleurs, de mobiliser des ressources adéquates pour la mise en oeuvre des décisions de la CNUED, notamment de l'Agenda 21.

Je voudrais d'ailleurs dire à ce sujet que certains pays africains se sont engagés avec la FAO dans la préparation de leur Agenda 21 national.

Comme pour aggraver ce tableau déjà sombre, la sécheresse et la désertification, la famine et la malnutrition, les catastrophes dues à la nature comme à l'homme continuent de frapper de plein fouet l'Afrique faisant d'innombrables victimes au Sahel, en Afrique centrale, en Afrique australe et en Afrique orientale.

Au sud du Sahara, il n'y a pas un seul pays qui ne soit victime d'une des situations que j'ai décrites.

Comme chacun le sait, plus de la moitié des pays du continent africain souffre de pénuries alimentaires aiguës et fait face à des situations d'urgence alimentaire exceptionnelles. Même s'il y a une amélioration dans la situation alimentaire agricole, même si quelquefois il arrive qu'il y ait une bonne campagne, il ne faut pas oublier que cela ne couvre pas totalement les besoins des pays. Dans le cas, par exemple, du Sénégal, quand nous disons que nous avons une bonne campagne, cela veut dire que nous ne pouvons couvrir nos besoins qu'à 52 pour cent. Il y a là un déficit structurel continu qu'il convient constamment de résorber.

Cette situation, d'une gravité particulière, conduit ma délégation à se faire l'écho de la déclaration du Directeur Général de la FAO sur la Réserve internationale d'urgence en matière alimentaire.

Nous pensons en effet, comme nous l'avons dit au cours de la Conférence Régionale Africaine sur la Nutrition tenue à Dakar en février dernier, que le temps est venu de revoir l'objectif de la RAIU, si l'on veut que cette réserve soit vraiment efficace et qu'elle réponde aux besoins sans cesse croissants des pays en développement.

Ma délégation partage les points de vue exprimés aux paragraphes 41 et 42 du document CL 102/2. Nous pensons qu'il y a là des propositions qui peuvent inspirer les pays en voie de développement et même la communauté internationale pour trouver des solutions durables aux problèmes alimentaires et agricoles.

Mais ces solutions supposent une meilleure organisation de la solidarité internationale et une meilleure organisation des marchés sous-régionaux dans l'optique d'une intégration économique régionale. Et je voudrais ici me féliciter de l'appréciation tout à fait positive de la délégation française à ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler désormais l'initiative Cissokho, du nom du ministre sénégalais du développement rural et de l'hydraulique, qui a eu l'idée d'organiser à Dakar, en 1991, la Conférence des ministres de l'agriculture de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre consacrée principalement à organiser le marché sous-régional africain, filière par filière, notamment dans le cadre des céréales et de la viande.

L'établissement de la Communauté économique africaine à Abudja (Nigeria), en 1991, s'inscrit dans cet esprit et traduit la volonté politique manifeste des chefs d'Etat africains de prendre à bras le corps le problème de l'intégration économique régionale.

Les solutions dont j'ai parlé supposent aussi et surtout des moyens accrus en ressources pour accroître la production - parce qu'il s'agit pour nous d'un problème de production - améliorer la productivité, promouvoir une agriculture durable, assurer la sécurité alimentaire et un bon état nutritionnel aux populations, et dégager, dans le même temps, des surplus commercialisables pour soutenir la balance commerciale et les paiements des pays en développement. Ces ressources ne peuvent être qu'additionnelles car ni les pays en développement ni la FAO n'ont les moyens de s'attaquer à ces problèmes à partir des maigres ressources ordinaires de leur budget; et tant que les contraintes dont j'ai parlé ne seront pas levées, il sera difficile



d'envisager, en Afrique tout au moins, continent que je connais le plus, une reprise économique dans les pays.

Me référant au nouvel Accord des Nations Unies pour le développement de l'Afrique dans les années quatre-vingt-dix qui a fait l'objet de la Résolution 46/51 de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, en date du 18 décembre 1991, je voudrais citer le paragraphe 5 de cet accord qui est contenu dans une brochure qui a été distribuée récemment - et j'engage d'ailleurs vivement les délégations à se procurer cette brochure. Il se lit comme suit: "Il serait souhaitable d'atteindre un taux de croissance réel du produit national brut d'au moins 6 pour cent par an tout au long de la période du Nouvel ordre pour que le continent africain connaisse une croissance soutenue et durable et un développement équitable, qu'il accroisse ses revenus et qu'il élimine la pauvreté."

Or il est évident, encore une fois, que cela ne sera mis en oeuvre - et d'ailleurs, l'Accord le prévoit - que sur la base de ressources supplémentaires et additionnelles. Nous ne cesserons jamais de dire combien nous attachons d'importance à ces ressources additionnelles et supplémentaires. C'est pourquoi ma délégation voudrait saisir l'occasion que lui offre la cent deuxième Session du Conseil pour lancer un appel pressant en direction de la communauté des bailleurs de fonds afin qu'elle accroisse son assistance aux pays en développement pour les aider non seulement à surmonter les situations d'urgence mais surtout à financer les actions de développement. A cet égard, l'aide publique au développement (l'APD) devrait, à notre sens, être revue et corrigée, en hausse bien sûr, pour tenir compte des besoins en croissance continue des pays en développement. L'appel que nous lançons s'adresse également aux Etats Membres de la FAO afin qu'ils mettent à la disposition de notre Organisation les moyens financiers nécessaires à la mise en oeuvre de sa politique et surtout de ses programmes de terrain qui, je le rappelle, sont vitaux pour nous, pays africains, en tout cas.

Enfin, nous voudrions dire l'espoir que nous, pays africains, plaçons en la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition qui se tiendra prochainement à Rome, du 5 au 12 décembre 1992, et à laquelle, bien sûr, en tant que Sénégal, nous participerons, et en tant qu'Afrique également parce que nous avons eu l'occasion, à Nairobi comme à Dakar, de préparer cette conférence.

Je vais conclure. Le monde contemporain est devenu un village planétaire aux problèmes multiples immenses et complexes. Nous avons tous besoin de solidarité agissante et de coopération internationale pour unir notre compréhension de ces problèmes à la volonté politique de les résoudre.

**Sra. Graziella DUBRA (Observadora de Uruguay):** Seré muy breve. Mi delegación quiere, antes que nada, felicitarlo a usted por presidir estos debates, así como a la Mesa, dando por descontado el éxito de sus gestiones. A su vez, quiero agradecer y felicitar a la Secretaría por la calidad de la documentación presentada.

Deseo referirme ahora al documento CL 102/2, que en su página 117 se refiere al MERCOSUR. Al respecto mi delegación, como uno de los cuatro miembros del MERCOSUR, se adhiere y apoya plenamente a lo expresado por la representación argentina en la mañana de hoy y posteriormente Brasil. Esta adhesión de apoyo la hacemos también en nombre de Paraguay, que nos ha solicitado señalarlo.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación desea aquí expresar la preocupación del Gobierno de Uruguay por la situación de las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, esperando que ésta llegue pronto a su fin con un resultado positivo que permita establecer un comercio multilateral, abierto, viable y duradero en beneficio de todos los países.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous arrivons au terme de la discussion générale sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1992. Le document qui nous a été soumis l'a été pour examen et non pour décision.

I shall ask Mr Hjort to answer some questions raised during this very interesting discussion.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Let me begin by expressing appreciation for all of the compliments on the documentation, and let me in turn compliment the Council for the quality of its interventions and statements. We have had some very thoughtful and serious quality interventions at this session.

Secondly, I want to express appreciation for the additional information that many of you have provided on the situation within your own country, and the updating as well as some corrections in that process. In this connection, I take note of the comments that have been made by Argentina, supported by Brazil and supported by the last observer that we just listened to, with respect to the box that covers MERCOSUR.

I also take note of the comments made by the European Community with respect to the association agreements. These matters will of course be corrected. The basic documents that you have before you, as you know, are turned into the annual publication that is made available to the public, and three matters will be attended to before that document is released in that form.

There was a specific question from Portugal with respect to the reforestation figures included in paragraph 149. The answer to his question is yes, that this includes all types of forests, including plantation and others.

There were comments by more than one member country about the box on page 44 that concerns the costs and returns from fishing fleets. These figures are summarized in this document. The State of Food and Agriculture document that will be released to the public has a special chapter each year. This year's special chapter, on fishery, has the details in which the methodology is made clear. We would be pleased to meet with those delegations that expressed particular interest in knowing about the methodology. I do not believe it would be appropriate to take the time of the Council to try to go through that at this point. Finally, in addition, the matter can and I expect will be brought up when the fishing items are being discussed tomorrow morning.

I suspect the one item that attracted more comment and a total consensus was disappointment that the Uruguay Round had not been successfully completed. Of course that is a matter of concern. We were encouraged to continue to do what we can to facilitate that process, and you can be assured that we shall do so to the limits of our ability.

There were many points made that could perhaps be best summarized under the title "Policies". The point was made, I recall, in particular by Chile, of the

importance of the links between macro-economic policies and the performance of the sector, and vice versa. There was the comment about the links between economic growth and trade. That is obviously important, in that slow growth means slow trade. Hopefully an improved economic situation in the future would lead to an acceleration in trade.

We had a number of comments about sector policies and the importance of those policies to the sector. There were comments about the poverty situation and the stress on resources that sometimes simply has to take place to keep food on the table, if you will.

Concerning the transition process and structural adjustment, there were a good number of comments, generally saying that in some cases we hear that the process seems to be working out reasonably well, making some progress. A more frequently heard comment is that the transition process is taking longer than one might have expected, and certainly longer than one would have hoped, and that there are significant side effects associated with that transition and adjustment process.

Also, we were reminded that success can lead to failure in that one can have agricultural policies that induce or stimulate an increase in production, and if there is no marketing system or other means of making effective utilization or moving those commodities to where they can be utilized, and if there is no safety net under prices - in other words, if one relies solely on the forces of the free market - there can be devastating prices to producers, particularly if they lack adequate storage capacity. Unfortunately, once producers go through that scenario it takes some time before one can convince them that they should move forward and increase production that they would have to sell at distressed prices. I think there was in addition to the dismay over the fact that the Uruguay Round had not been concluded, and linked to that, but probably going beyond it, an appeal that export subsidies should be abolished. In some cases it was not quite that strong, but I believe that was essentially what Argentina said to us, and others certainly were in favour of the elimination of export subsidies.

Recalling the figure that I quoted in the introductory comments, and taking note of the flow of resources to agriculture, and taking note of the reverse flow of resources from developing to developed countries, one would have to conclude that export subsidies and export prices are more important than these alternative flows of resources to the countries themselves.

We have had a number of comments in response to the section about the undernourished and the fact that not only the proportion but the number had declined, largely a consequence of rapid improvements and changes that had been made in Asia Pacific and particularly in China. These comments related to undernutrition. The plea for further action, the comments about food security all lead me to conclude that this set of member countries that make up the Council will in fact be strong supporters of the International Conference on Nutrition where an action plan will be laid before you for approval.

There was talk about the Global Information and Early Warning System. We will have an opportunity to talk about that again in a few minutes so we will not dwell on that. There was also considerable comment about the links, and the implications of, the surge in emergency situations for relief, rehabilitation and development.

I recall in particular one statement, that we cannot forget development, and that emergencies threaten to crowd out development; this is so. We see it every day. I have the task of trying to watch over our emergency-related activities, and I can assure you it takes considerable time and effort, and there is the constant threat. But the links really are more important; it is fortunate that FAO is one of the bodies who has a responsibility from the first point of relief, the early warning of an emergency, on through to helping you in response to your requests for development.

We have a whole series of other bodies in the UN System that are there for relief, and others who are there for development, who sometimes are called upon to be coordinator of these matters at the local level and at times it does not work very well at all either. Nevertheless they try.

We are a food and agricultural organization. Our mandate is broad and we do not have any desire to go beyond our mandate though we do stand ready to try to respond to your requests for assistance. I might point out in particular too the concerns of Colombia that our Field Programme is bigger than our Regular Programme. The staff we have to produce the documents which are before you consists of four professionals. We have about 1 500 times that number of persons in the Organization working on one thing or another - not all in the field certainly, but action is extremely important to us.

There were many comments made about the deterioration in export prices and there were two specific calls in particular concerning coffee. It reminds us that an important role of this Organization - which is your Organization - is to provide a forum for member countries and interested parties to come together to discuss matters.

The suggestion was made that perhaps the coffee matter might be taken up at the next meeting of Council. May I suggest that consideration instead be given to your Committee on Commodity Problems which may be a more appropriate forum? That body will meet I think a week before the next session of the Council, early in June of 1993, and should there be interest on the part of the member countries I see no reason why the matter could not be taken up and discussed in that forum.

Finally, I express appreciation for the comments that were made in response to my requests about reform of the documents. Unfortunately I think if one kept track of the additions that people were suggesting and also the minuses, I believe the pluses won. I was trying to find some way in which you would agree with me that we should cut these down and reduce their size rather than expand on them but we will look at your comments carefully. We do appreciate them and we will try to take them into account. I believe that was the essence of the points that I picked up.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons procédé à un examen complet si tant est qu'il soit possible d'être complet dans une telle matière qui ne pourra jamais être épuisée. Nous avons en effet abordé des secteurs extrêmement divers et de ce fait il est quasiment impossible de faire une synthèse exhaustive. Le document qui nous est soumis, qui est d'ailleurs une tentative de synthèse de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1992 dans le monde et qui apporte un certain nombre d'exemples concrets, mérite d'être étudié et médité.

Je pense que l'ensemble des réflexions présentées par les honorables membres du Conseil et par les observateurs vont rester présentes dans l'esprit des spécialistes de la FAO qui, dans les mois qui viennent, auront l'occasion d'en tirer tous les enseignements souhaités.

Avez-vous des remarques ou des questions à poser à M. Hjort?

Tel n'étant pas le cas, je vais considérer le quatrième point de notre ordre du jour comme clos et nous allons passer au point 5 qui recouvre en partie le domaine qui vient d'être examiné.

5. Report of the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome. 23-27 March 1992)
5. Rapport de la dix-septième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome. 23-27 mars 1992)
5. Informe del 17º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma. 23-27 de marzo de 1992)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le point 5 est le rapport de la dix-septième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, session qui s'est tenue à Rome du 23 au 27 mars 1992 et qui comporte un certain nombre de considérations et propositions sur lesquelles notre Conseil est appelé à prendre des décisions. Certaines questions sont soumises à l'attention du Conseil non seulement pour examen mais également pour décision.

Le document qui vous est soumis est le document CL 102/10 et je voudrais attirer votre attention sur le document CL 102/INF/19, c'est-à-dire la déclaration de compétence de la Communauté économique européenne. Ce rapport de la dix-septième session du Comité de sécurité alimentaire couvre une matière de compétence mixte qui donne à la Communauté le droit de parler et qui laisse aux Etats Membres le droit de voter.

Nous allons immédiatement passer à la présentation du rapport, auquel de nombreux Etats Membres ont déjà participé et je donne la parole à M. Hjort, Directeur général adjoint de la FAO.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates and members, I now have the pleasure to present to the Council the Report of the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. As the Chairman has mentioned, the document is CL 102/10. The Committee on World Food Security at its Seventeenth Session in Rome during 23rd - 27th March 1992 considered a number of important food security policy issues. Firstly, the Committee reviewed the current world food security situation and outlook. Secondly, it examined approaches to monitoring access to food and household food security. Thirdly, the Committee reviewed the contribution of ruminant livestock to food security. Fourthly, it assessed the activities of the global information and early warning system as well as of the FAO's supported national and regional early warning systems. Finally, the Committee considered the frequency of CFS sessions.

The Council has discussed the world food security situation and outlook at least in part, so with respect to this topic I shall only highlight the Committee's concern over the difficulties faced by countries undergoing

structural adjustment programmes and to recall that the Committee ask the Secretariat to continue to monitor their impact closely.

The Committee reviewed approaches to monitoring access to food and household food security and broadly endorsed the proposed approach for developing and testing a composite index for monitoring household food security. It reviewed the list of possible indicators considered for the composite index and noted that these indicators provide, as an initial step, an acceptable compromise between analytical precision and the measurement of the problem of food access on the part of insecure food groups and the need for easily monitorable indicators for purposes of annual world food security assessments.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the contribution of ruminant livestock to food security. It expressed the hope that future work of the Secretariat in this area would also cover reviews of the contribution of non-ruminant livestock as well as fishery to food security. Several delegates expressed the view that negative aspects of the interaction of ruminant livestock with the natural environment had not been sufficiently addressed. In this context it was stressed that it was essential to find ways for better organization of livestock producers at the local level for appropriate management of common property resources. The Committee was informed of a study under preparation on the links between food security and sustainability which could also address these questions.

The Committee also reviewed the activities of the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). It considered that good progress has been made for strengthening the system to cope with the growing demands placed upon it. This has enabled the system to continue to improve its monitoring of the crop and food outlook at national and global levels. It added that the system as a whole has been accepted internationally as a low-cost, flexible and operational instrument for detection of emerging food supply demand situations throughout the world. It also noted with satisfaction the growing recognition within the UN system of the GIEWS as a mechanism for food disaster detection.

The Committee endorsed proposals to improve both the monitoring of social economic indicators of food demand and the agro-meteorological assessment of crop growing conditions.

In addition, it expressed its appreciation at the improvement that had been made in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and mechanisms set up by their institutions, leading to intensified support for the system in terms of both resources and information.

The Committee reiterated its full support for the work of the system and urged that this high priority should be reflected in future allocations of resources.

The Committee finally reviewed the frequency of CFS sessions on the basis of a document which considered the pros and cons of the options.

A number of delegates referred to possible upcoming discussions in the economic and social areas of the United Nations, the outcome of the ICN, the UN Conference on Environment and Development and the Uruguay Round, that might need to be taken into account in ascertaining the appropriate frequency for the CFS sessions and its procedures.

In view of this, the Committee considers that it was not timely to reach a decision at this stage and agreed to hold a regular session in 1993, at which time it will examine its future procedures in the light of such developments.

Mr Chairman, since most of these matters previously referred to continue to be unsettled, it would be hoped that the Council need not engage tonight in a debate on the frequency of the sessions of the CFS.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Comme les membres du Conseil le savent, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale est un Comité qui a été créé en application de l'article 33 du Règlement général de notre Organisation. Cet article 33, point 5, définit clairement les fonctions de ce Comité. Il est important de signaler que le règlement général prévoit que le Comité tienne normalement deux sessions au cours de chaque période biennale. Il est évident que le règlement de notre Organisation n'est pas intangible mais que pour modifier un règlement il y a nécessairement des procédures qui doivent être respectées.

Le rapport comporte un certain nombre de points particulièrement importants, dont: la référence, dans le discours du Directeur général, à la Déclaration de Barcelone, le problème de la fréquence des sessions que nous venons d'évoquer, le problème du Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide (SMIAR) qui a fait l'objet de longues considérations et qui permet une bonne articulation entre les activités de notre Organisation et celles du Programme alimentaire mondial - qui est un des principaux utilisateurs du système d'information et d'alerte rapide.

Il est souhaité que dans le document, à l'avenir, on incorpore une section sur la sécurité alimentaire des ménages. Il peut être utile de connaître les avis des membres du Conseil. Il y a également une autre suggestion qui me paraît intéressante, à savoir l'étude de la contribution du secteur des pêches à la sécurité alimentaire et la nécessité, compte tenu de l'importance de ce secteur, de réaliser cette étude.

Il est éminemment souhaitable que les membres du Conseil puissent clairement se prononcer sur les propositions faites par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire.

Je demanderai à tous les intervenants qui se sont fait inscrire de répondre aussi brièvement que possible aux questions précises qui sont actuellement posées afin que nous puissions, au terme de nos débats, prendre des décisions en fonction de l'éclairage que vous donnerez à l'examen de ce rapport.

**D. PUTNAM (United Kingdom):** The United Kingdom delegation would like to draw this Council's attention to paper CL 102/INF/4. In paragraph 1.4 of this paper the 60th Session of Council examined the role of Council in reviewing the activities of subsidiary bodies such as the Committee on World Food Security. This review process is a requirement set out in the basic text but we would, in particular, like to highlight paragraph 1.4(c) of the document, CL 102/INF/4. This paragraph states that the Council should "ensure that the discussions of these bodies are not repeated".

The logic of this decision becomes even more apparent when one compares the membership of the Seventeenth Session of the CFS and this, the 102nd Session of Council. Almost all of the members of this session of Council were

represented here in March when this report was unanimously adopted without amendment.

The Secretariat and the Committee on World Food Security have done their duty by submitting the report of this meeting to the 102nd Session of Council. We would, therefore, urge that we, the Council, do our duty by endorsing this report as quickly as we can.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué du Royaume-Uni pour le soutien qu'il apporte à ce que j'avais déclaré dans l'introduction de ce point. J'avais rappelé la mission du Conseil dans le cadre du Règlement général de l'Organisation. Comme vous le savez, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire dépend du Conseil. Dans le rapport du Comité, il y a un certain nombre de questions qui ont été posées et qui doivent recevoir des réponses et des décisions. Il est de la compétence du Conseil, et seulement du Conseil, de prendre les décisions qui s'imposent, compte tenu des questions posées. J'aimerais que les membres du Conseil se prononcent clairement sur les questions signalées par le Directeur général adjoint, notamment en ce qui concerne la fréquence des sessions et des examens futurs, l'accent mis sur le problème de la sécurité alimentaire des ménages, la pêche. Le Conseil est appelé à se prononcer sur toutes ces questions. Il n'est pas souhaitable que des discours soient prononcés, mais il faut que des réponses soient données aux questions posées. Cela ressort du rapport qui est fait par le Comité au Conseil, seule instance habilitée à prendre les décisions qui s'imposent.

**Francisco Javier Alejo LOPEZ (México):** Agradecemos a la Secretaría por el documento. En relación con su capítulo I, la delegación mexicana estima necesario reiterar que la visión intersectorial constituye un elemento importante en el seguimiento de la Seguridad Alimentaria. La CNUMAD y la CIN hacen patente la relación entre recursos naturales y alimentación, vista esta última en su máxima expresión, la nutrición.

Esta relación, que representa una extraordinaria conexión de procesos biológicos para el desarrollo, alentada en el sistema de Naciones Unidas, a través de dos grandes Conferencias, constituye una novedad en materia de política y debe ser objeto del mejor análisis del Comité, tal como lo propone el documento CL 102/10.

En lo concreto, estimamos necesario que el Comité debería conceder mayor importancia a la pesca y a la acuicultura como alternativas para mejorar la nutrición.

El consumo de los productos pesqueros, por su alto valor proteínico debe alentarse, ya que además de mejorar la dieta y la calidad alimentaria, es sin duda un elemento que contribuye a la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

El capítulo IV del documento, relativo a la aportación del sector pecuario a la seguridad alimentaria, es por demás interesante y estamos de acuerdo con el párrafo 30, que sugiere "un examen de la aportación de los animales no rumiantes" a esta seguridad.

El párrafo 32 advierte que el documento específico de trabajo con que el Comité abordó el tema, "no subrayaba suficientemente los aspectos negativos de la interacción del ganado rumiante con el medio ambiente". Afortunadamente



el párrafo 33 precisa que se informó al Comité que estaba en curso un estudio sobre los vínculos entre la seguridad alimentaria y la sostenibilidad y que, entre otras cosas, trataría del posible impacto ambiental de los distintos sistemas de producción pecuaria.

Llamamos la atención de ustedes al párrafo 35 que habla de la necesidad de eliminar distorsiones en el comercio de productos pecuarios por sus efectos negativos en la seguridad alimentaria.

En relación con el capítulo IV del documento es interesante recordar que en julio de este año se realizó en Bolivia la tercera reunión de la Comisión de Desarrollo de la Ganadería para América Latina y el Caribe.

Cabe destacar que la Comisión solicitó a la FAO realizar un estudio sobre la producción y comercialización de la leche y los subproductos lácteos en la región, con énfasis en la utilización que se da a la leche, a través de donaciones a los países y el efecto que esto tiene sobre los productos locales.

La Comisión también estimó conveniente que la FAO realice un estudio que clarifique los factores que incriminan a la ganadería como una actividad que deteriora el medio ambiente y afecta a los diferentes ecosistemas en la región. Con la colaboración de los países, será posible difundir la información que genere el estudio y mostrar a la opinión pública y al consumidor de productos pecuarios, la imagen positiva y real de las ganaderías.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, estimamos que las sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y sus futuros informes pueden enriquecerse, si se abordan aspectos de campo o proyectos de cooperación que resalten el sentido práctico de los debates y el concepto ampliado de la Seguridad Alimentaria en forma aplicada.

**Christodoulos CHRISTODOULOU (Cyprus):** On behalf of my delegation I wish to highlight some points on this item and to register our support for the report of the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on Food Security.

The world food security situation continues to be crucial, especially for low-income, food-deficit countries. This is mainly due to the fluctuations in stable food production and stock level conditions. In many of the low-income, food-deficit countries famine and malnutrition for years have been permanent phenomena.

As regards the production side, the situation is even worse. During the same decade the number of low-income food-deficit countries, with a per capita production of cereals below the base index, has also increased.

Surely, for most of the developing countries, the ever growing burden of their external debt servicing, associated with the reduction of prices of their export commodities, is inevitably worsening their financial position for stabilizing food supplies through imports.

The recent political and economic developments in the former socialist countries of central and eastern Europe create new dimensions to this complex problem of world food security. Already, in most of these countries, millions

of the people are facing great difficulties in securing food and, in the light of the huge socio-economic problems, such as unemployment, high inflation, land ownership, inadequate infrastructure and market mechanism, etc., the food shortages will affect vulnerable populations in the region, at least for a transitional period, subject to political stability and adequate economic reforms.

All these countries possess a strong agricultural potential, especially human resources, which, through the proper structural reforms and policies and surely other assistance, can become net food exporters in a short period of time, of course under normalized socio-economic conditions. In this historic process the role of FAO in providing policy advice and technical assistance aimed at improving the conditions of food production and food supply is surely of fundamental importance.

At this point, I wish to express the full support of my delegation to the relevant FAO efforts waged so far, as well as to the future FAO initiatives in assisting these countries to overcome the consequences of the big shock. This additional role of FAO proves its ecumenicality and its readiness to respond to new challenges.

The second point of our intervention is concerned with the role of ruminant livestock in stabilizing and enhancing household access to food over the seasons.

According to estimates, around 50 percent of world population of ruminant livestock are found in countries of food deficit. Surely, these animals constitute a vital source of highly nutritional food for human consumption. They also provide employment, inputs to crop agriculture and income to buy consumer goods or for investments in production. The raising of these animals enables a better land use through mixed farming and the exploitation of marginal lands.

In the light of experience gained in my country, Cyprus, we can say that the raising of livestock is the key issue for increasing food supplies and incomes in rainfed areas. This can be achieved through proper livestock management, including genetic upgrading, animal health and animal nutrition.

The existence of the proper extension services, including home economics, as well as the training of livestock-keepers, namely on aspects of livestock management, are of fundamental importance for increasing livestock production and productivity.

As regards the raising of overall agricultural income, namely under rainfed conditions, we have practised in Cyprus the benefits of a mixed-farming system based on the raising of sheep and goats together with the production of cereal crops in rotation with World Food Programme leguminous fodders. This system has been applied by our farmers, during the 1960s, with FAO and World Food Programme assistance. The results were really impressive from the viewpoint of income increase, land use and agricultural employment.

Finally, we wish to state that we consider the forthcoming International Conference on Nutrition as an event of historic importance for world food security. We expect that the conclusions of this Conference will create greater awareness and renewed commitments of the international community for resolving the pressing problems of hunger and malnutrition.

**Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand):** The report of the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security is a good one. My delegation appreciates the efforts of those involved in preparing the document. We have four points on which we wish to comment.

Firstly, when I finished reading this report I found that the words "Uruguay Round" "protectionism", "liberalization of international food policies", "reduction in trade", "trade-distorting support" and "removal of distortion" have been mentioned frequently in this report in connection with agricultural products. You may find these words in paragraphs 14, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 35. I am certain that the issues are very important and closely related to world food security. In short, we believe that the unjust practice in world agricultural trade definitely has negative consequences for food security at the national level of developing countries, as well as at a global level as a whole. We should therefore like to see certain developed countries paying serious attention to these issues.

Secondly, my delegation totally agrees that the secretariat of the Committee on World Food security should examine the conclusions of the International Conference on Nutrition. In relation to household food security, we hope that the Secretariat could make this study available at its next meeting.

Thirdly, my delegation is fully aware of the important role played by the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System. We would appreciate it if the Secretariat could give us more details on the future plan to train national and regional staff in the use of modern technology to strengthen the monitoring of crops and food supply.

Fourthly, concerning the frequency of CFS sessions, my delegation supports the status quo option, option (a).

Finally, I am afraid that I have to mention the food security scheme at a regional level, even though it is not discussed in the report. My Government is very interested in the regional security scheme, namely ASEAN's food security reserves. We sincerely appreciate the work which has been done by FAO for the ASEAN project. We should be very happy to hear more from the Secretariat on the recent developments, since the project protocol was sent to the Government of Japan to consider financial assistance some time ago.

**Duck SOO AHN (Korea, Republic of):** My delegation welcomes the report of the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which gives us useful information for the food security debate. We also welcome the concise explanation of it given by the Deputy Director-General, Mr Hjort.

Firstly, my delegation would like to point out their concern that the world food security situation has deteriorated in 1991/92 because the world supply of staple food has fallen in 1991, mainly through a decline in cereals levels. Also, the distribution of food stocks is imbalanced among countries and among different cereals. The subsequent economic situation of developing of countries seriously affects food security in the vulnerable crops. Therefore my delegation shares the view of the importance of a positive outcome of the international trade negotiation, which should produce substantial benefits for all countries on a balanced basis and make a significant contribution to world food security.

At the same time, my delegation is of the opinion that, especially for developing countries, efforts to increase staple food production should be increased for international and national food security.

With regard to the relationship between the new international trade order and food security, my delegation would additionally like to point out that the comprehensive implications and effect of market liberalization methods towards food security should be carefully examined through various kinds of studies, including case studies. These studies will show the possible effects and enable us to clarify the strategies to secure short- and long-term national food security.

My delegation believes that the Global Information and Early Warning System has played a very important role in covering the emergency situations caused by natural and man-made disasters. It has also contributed to the improvement of nutritional levels in the various parts of the world, to which more attention has been given this century through FAO activities such as the International Conference on Nutrition. I should therefore like to reiterate that, as emphasized in many other fora, the agricultural information sector, including GIEWS activities for food security, is one of the most important areas for FAO to put priorities for its work.

**Nusyirwan ZEN (Indonesia):** The Indonesian delegation wish to express their appreciation to the Committee on World Food security for their assessment and review on the global food situation. We do not have any basic disagreement with the report. We warmly welcome and support the assurances by some major food aid donors that their food aid allocations to the economies in transition would be additional to existing commitments and would not result in a diversion of food aid allocations from traditional recipients among developing countries. We also support the appeal, as well as the recommendation, to international organizations to provide assistance to countries experiencing difficulties in their food supply. In this regard, we should also like to reiterate the Barcelona Declaration of 1992 and the results of the Non-aligned Movement meeting of 1992 that food aid should not be used as an instrument of political and economic pressure. Food aid should be seen as an instrument for developing human resources for better income, household food security and nutrition. The NAM summit meeting decided to convene a Conference of Ministers of food and agriculture of the Non-aligned Movement and other developing countries to formulate policy guidelines on food and agriculture and to take major steps to establish schemes to provide substantial food aid to relieve critical shortages such as those occurring in certain parts of Africa.

With regard to the Global Information and Early Warning System, the Indonesian delegation wish to express their support on its development to enhance efforts in monitoring the global food situation, especially in developing countries.

The Jakarta NAM in 1992 also called for the importance of the continuous close monitoring of development of global food situations.

With regard to the frequency of CFS meetings, the Indonesian delegation would like to support the one plus option in view of (a) the efficiency and higher quality of work of the CFS; (b) delegations' costs for preparing and attending the meetings; (c) advanced levels of the Global Information and Early Warning Systems operated by FAO; and (d) the availability of more advanced technology for disseminating information.

We support the view that, even under the reduced frequency of meetings, the policy studies presented to CFS can continue. In addition, topics such as policy studies can be discussed in other FAO bodies such as COAG in Conference years.

Finally, the Indonesian delegation shares the concern of the delegate of Thailand at the absence of a report on the implementation of the previous Council's decision on FAO assistance to study Asian food security reserve in the Report of the 7th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** My delegation participated actively in the last Session in the Committee on Food Security held in March this year. The leader of my delegation also had the opportunity to give his comments on the developing world food security situation and related issues. Therefore, I shall restrict myself to only a few comments.

First, with reference on paragraphs 23 and 25 of the Report, we agree with the operational definition of household food security. However, this definition does not include the nutritional dimension of the food security. In our view, household food security and malnutrition are interrelated. Therefore, while considering food insecurity at household level, the underlying causes of malnutrition should also be kept in mind.

The identification of possible indicators for mapping household food security should also be country- and region-specific. It would be desirable to associate the Member Nations while preparing the indicators for monitoring household food security. Further, any statistical information in this regard should be obtained from the Member States without incurring any extra costs on household surveys independently by FAO.

Second, my delegation appreciates the recognition of the contribution of livestock wealth to food security. Livestock wealth is an integral part of the rural household system in the developing countries during natural disasters and induced stress situations. The non-ruminant livestock particularly contributes to the food security of the households. However, during the stress situations, the market forces operate to the disadvantage of the rural households whose income depend upon the sale of such livestock. Hence, efforts need to be made and policies to be introduced to ensure that the market fluctuations of the livestock do not unduly undermine the income of rural households. FAO can initiate steps to identify measures which can ensure stability of the prices of the livestock during stress situations.

Third, we also appreciate the improvement made in the Global Information and Early Warning System for the detection of emerging food supply difficulties to ensure timely intervention in averting major food scarcity induced disasters. The System is a low-cost, flexible operational instrument for monitoring the food availability in fragile areas. It is based on crop monitoring and harvest indicators. However, we feel that in addition to these two indicators, the hydrological indicators such as water level in the reservoirs and tanks would give an early clue to the impending difficult situations. Hence, we suggest that FAO incorporate these indicators into the existing Global Information and Early Warning System which, in our view, will improve its quality.

Fourth, with regard to the frequency of the CFS, as decided at the last meeting, the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held in March/April next year, and will itself be taking a decision on this issue.

With these comments, my delegation endorses the Report of the CFS held in March this year.

**HUANG YONGNING (China) (Original language Chinese):** My intervention will be very brief. The Seventeenth Session of the CFS conducted a comprehensive review of five Agenda Items related to the current food security situation. The Chinese delegation participated actively in the March meeting and its discussions. We endorse wholeheartedly the relevant analysis and the conclusions reached by the CFS.

We should like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the document and we should like to thank the Deputy Director-General for its preparation. We fully endorse the adoption of the Report.

**Daudi NGELAUTWA MKAKAWAGO (Tanzania):** My delegation expresses our appreciation, Mr Chairman, for your excellent lead in this Council Session. We should also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen.

Tanzania participated fully in the Seventeenth CFS Committee session here in Rome. We reiterate our support for the conclusions.

However, I need to highlight a few points as a matter of emphasis. Firstly, we emphasize the need to underscore the importance of household food security. In the case of Tanzania, liberalization has tended to distort the age-old traditions of household security. This needs to be looked into because of the obsession with the selling of produce to the market. They find they have the money and they need to buy the food, when they could have their food in their own local storages.

Tanzania has been campaigning with the farmers to ensure that they have enough stocks for their needs and are only selling what is surplus. It is an uphill task but it is very important and needs to be looked into.

Secondly, it should be noted that women are the largest force of producers of food. Therefore, focus should be directed towards their getting adequate and nutritious food. Furthermore, their working conditions require attention, especially the kind of implements that are used. This area of technology should also be looked into, especially lessening the work burden of the women.

Thirdly, there is the question of post-harvest losses. Here we need to emphasize the question of strengthening the cooperation between people and FAO and the other donors in the construction of grain storage. Our experience in Tanzania has shown quite remarkable results.

In conclusion, in Tanzania structural adjustment has led to cost escalation, especially of fertilizers. There are areas in Tanzania where, without chemical fertilizers, there can be no meaningful production and productivity. This is a serious problem on which the Council needs to focus its attention.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** Being a member of the Committee on Food Security, my country endorses the approval of the Report of the Seventeenth Session of CFS.

We are pleased in particular that FAO is continuously improving its Global Information and Early Warning System. The quick information which this system allows is of decisive importance to forecast natural disasters and, if this information is translated into prompt action, catastrophic hunger can at least be alleviated. Its proven value is evident again these days in the crisis areas in Africa.

The establishment and further development of this warning mechanism was a great success also for the CFS. It should continue with its efforts. However, we are convinced that the strict annual frequency of CFS sessions should be avoided. We feel that a biennial frequency which allows for specific exceptions would be sufficient and would release valuable resources for other tasks of FAO.

**Mlle Evelynne SENG SUWAN (France):** La délégation française approuve les conditions opérationnelles qui sont recommandées, notamment au paragraphe 16 du rapport, lorsqu'il s'agit de favoriser les achats locaux ou les opérations triangulaires de livraison d'un pays du sud vers un autre pays du sud. Elle tient également à souligner que les efforts dans le domaine de la prévention ou de la lutte contre les fléaux naturels, comme le criquet pèlerin ou la protection des cultures en général, doivent être poursuivis, complétant ainsi ceux du SMIAR.

Une contribution au règlement de la question de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale viendra certainement aussi de la plus grande efficacité à donner aux opérations et engagements en matière d'aide. A cet égard, la France tient à rappeler l'importance qu'il y aurait à ouvrir un débat sur l'aide alimentaire, son utilisation optimale et son impact sur la sécurité alimentaire dans le contexte bien connu de la réforme des institutions économiques et sociales des Nations Unies.

En outre, lorsque l'on parle de sécurité alimentaire, il est nécessaire d'en envisager toute la dimension politico-sociale. Cette remarque est valable non seulement pour ce qui concerne les groupes vulnérables mais aussi pour la maîtrise de la démographie. A cet égard, le document CL 102/10 ne consacre pas assez de place à la mise au point de stratégies qui prennent également en compte la question démographique.

Enfin, pour ce qui concerne la philosophie sous-jacente à l'aide alimentaire, la délégation française tient à rappeler, en s'inspirant à ce propos de la Charte de l'aide alimentaire signée le 10 février 1990 avec de nombreux pays d'Afrique subsaharienne, que celle-ci ne doit ni créer des phénomènes de dépendance définitifs ni perturber la production ou la commercialisation de produits locaux.

J'ajouterai que les opérations triangulaires d'aide alimentaire reçoivent notre plein appui, et cela pour deux raisons principales: elles garantissent un débouché aux agriculteurs des pays susceptibles de perdre leurs récoltes à cause de la sécheresse ou d'autres raisons écologiques; les agriculteurs, assurés de vendre leur production, sont ainsi incités à produire plus que ce dont ils ont besoin pour leur autoconsommation; ils approvisionneront mieux

le marché national. D'autre part, des dépôts seront construits pour entreposer ces produits avant leur expédition vers le pays destinataire; ces mêmes entrepôts serviront ensuite de réserve pour une éventuelle pénurie locale ou nationale.

Le deuxième effet direct est dû à la fourniture aux habitants du pays bénéficiaire de l'opération de produits qu'ils consomment normalement; le risque de changement d'habitudes alimentaires est ainsi supprimé: la substitution des aliments traditionnels par des aliments importés plus faciles à préparer peut provoquer un abandon durable de ceux-là, provoquant l'appauvrissement des agriculteurs et accélérant de ce fait l'exode rural.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** Mr Chairman, first allow me to express my appreciation to Mr Hjort, the Deputy Director-General, for his clear and concise introduction to the subject of our present discussion. Secondly, as you recommended, I shall try to be as brief as possible.

Since the question of food, hunger and malnutrition is the main problem of the least developed and developing countries of the world, sustainable agricultural development, population growth control and equitable distribution of food and agriculture production are the only solution to this problem.

In order to overcome the problem, a specialized and competent organization such as FAO should undertake this responsibility. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, through international efforts and in cooperation with other international organizations, should take effective measures to ensure that food and agriculture products are not used as a political weapon, and also that international, regional or local blockades should not create any limitation for food access in the least developed and developing countries. In this context, controlling the international food markets could be another effective measure by FAO. In this case, the effective cooperation of all countries and other relevant organizations will be very necessary.

Given the above-mentioned issues, on behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I fully support the Barcelona Declaration of March 1992 on the Food Rights of Man, as indicated in paragraph 12 of document CL 102/10.

Regarding the food security issues, in our view the policy of utilizing triangular transactions and local purchases is fully supported.

Concerning the contribution of livestock to food security, it should be noted that in developing countries, and particularly in those countries which are located in arid and semi-arid regions of the world, over-grazing is one of the main causes of destruction of the natural environment. In particular, the negative aspects of the inter-action of ruminant livestock with the natural environment are entirely evident. In order to achieve the sustainable utilization of natural resources which leads to sustainable contribution of livestock to food security, all environment resources including grazing resources should be utilized through the comprehensive integrated management plan of natural resources. In this regard, FAO's inter-departmental activity is the most appropriate and effective.



In regard to the frequency of the CFS sessions, we believe that one biennial meeting in non-Conference years is sufficient, and during Conference years the review of the assessment of the world food security situation would be done by another FAO body.

Finally, in general we support FAO's activities in relation to the Global Information and Early Warning Systems programme. In particular, the application of this system and its role in world food security is fully supported, and its improvement is necessary.

**Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan):** My comment will be brief and concise. World food security was an old but fundamental and crucial theme of FAO before the environmental issue became so large. Looking at the world food situation now and foreseeing the future, we recognize the necessity for FAO to continue its activities in this field, including monitoring and analysing the world food situation and disseminating that information to the world, as well as giving technical and political guidance to developing countries in an effective manner.

In this context, my Government expects FAO to perform its function within its mandate, which includes the activities I have just mentioned, in a positive manner. We should like to discuss FAO's activities in this field, including the frequency of the Committee on World Food Security, at the next CFS meeting.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Nosotros comenzaremos por dar nuestro apoyo en líneas generales a este documento, pero quisiéramos hacer algunas observaciones probablemente por nuestra necesidad de información al respecto.

En primer lugar, el concepto de seguridad alimentaria que ya en años pasados expuso aquí uno de nuestros ex-presidentes del Consejo, el Dr Swaminathan, de buen recuerdo para nosotros, sobre la conveniencia de ir pensando no en seguridad alimentaria per se, sino en un concepto de seguridad nutricional, porque realmente no siempre los alimentos que ingieren las masas de la población son alimentos que van a garantizar su seguridad alimentaria, y que por eso habría que pensar en afinar los conceptos de seguridad alimentaria para crear el concepto de "seguridad nutricional", y ello necesitaría, por consiguiente, una afinación también de los métodos de recolección de datos o de investigación, que la FAO tiene a su disposición.

Eso, en principio, que creo surge de la lectura del documento y que no estaría en desacuerdo, pero que sí nos llevaría a la conclusión de que no podíamos estar pensando en distanciar las reuniones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, puesto que tendría un mayor trabajo. Este mismo documento habla de la necesidad de la investigación en los hogares en cuanto a seguridad alimentaria y si eso lo vamos a hacer así, investigar la seguridad alimentaria en los hogares, no es precisamente alargando la periodicidad de las reuniones del Comité como lo logramos, sino, por el contrario, yendo más en profundidad a su conocimiento.

En segundo lugar, por eso, ya que ellos consideran que sería conveniente incorporar a su debido tiempo una sección sobre la seguridad alimentaria en los hogares en el documento anual de evaluación, no podemos estar pensando que eso lo hagamos cada dos años, porque este trabajo de investigación en los

hogares va a llevar un minucioso estudio y probablemente una capacitación de personas que deban hacerlo, inclusive a las amas de casa o a las campesinas, puesto que creemos que no vamos a hacer solamente investigación a los hogares de la clase alta o de la clase media, vamos a ir precisamente a los que tienen una mayor necesidad de ayudarlos en su alimentación.

Otro punto que nos merece una pregunta o por lo menos una reflexión, es el que se refiere a la denominación o a la incorporación, esto que dijo nuestro excelente expositor, lo que se llama el "Sector pecuario no rumiante".

A mí me gusta trabajar con mi lógica, y, además, mi profesión es geógrafo y un poco sé de agricultura. No sé cómo podemos incluir en el sector pecuario a los no rumiantes. Podríamos entonces hacer una definición del sector ganadero en el cual podemos incluir toda clase de ganadería, desde la ganadería mayor a la menor pasando, si ustedes quieren, por toda la pequeña ganadería que siempre será rumiante y hacer una separación que sería una cuestión de metodología, para colocar allí los peces, las aves, los que no son rumiantes, entonces tendríamos una separación del sector ganadero y, si queremos, podríamos hacer una denominación del sector animal rumiante y no rumiante. Yo quedaría satisfecha con esta definición; pero hablar de un sector pecuario no rumiante no nos satisface, puesto que la característica pecuaria lleva, porque sí, animales hervíboros que se alimentan de hierbas; no conozco todavía peces ni gallinas que se alimenten de hierbas, pero yo tengo poco conocimiento de eso. Por eso, nos permitimos abusar de la paciencia de la Comisión para hacer esta sugerencia. Hablemos entonces del sector ganadero y del sector animal no rumiante. Así quedaría sector ganadero y sector animal no rumiante y ahí podríamos meter todo lo que es la apicultura y también todo lo que es la acuicultura, si lo que queremos es incorporarlo todo. En ese sentido, me permito hacer esta sugerencia y creo que salvaríamos la claridad de los conceptos con esta denominación. En cuanto al sector pecuario per se, estamos completamente de acuerdo en lo que se refiere a la aportación directa e indirecta de los rumiantes a la seguridad alimentaria. Sabemos que ellos contribuyen no solamente su carne, su leche, sino que también son capaces de aportar elementos fertilizantes y algunas otras actividades como el transporte, etc.

Por esa razón, pues, apoyaría todos estos artículos que se refieren a la seguridad alimentaria dependiendo del sector pecuario y sugiero que busquemos un apartado, que supongo es más capaz la Secretaría que yo, y así separar el sector animal no rumiante, en el cual incluiríamos apicultura, aves y peces, como ya lo estableció el Señor, que hizo la creación del mundo, que un día se lo dedicó a las aves y los peces.

En cuanto al concepto de la elaboración de datos y a la recolección de datos, nos parece que con la incrementación de este trabajo si mantenemos el statu quo. Sin ánimo de desatar ninguna discusión en este momento, creo que una reunión anual sería lo deseable, porque cualquiera de las otras posibilidades recargaría esa reunión con el trabajo que habría que hacer ajustando este documento a las posibilidades y observaciones que han hecho los que han intervenido en el uso de la palabra antes que yo.

Creo que por lo demás es un documento bastante certero, muy completo y que con esas observaciones de mi parte, lo apoyo totalmente, apoyando también la Declaración de Barcelona que indudablemente nos compete y tratando de estudiar si nosotros pudiéramos introducir aquí el concepto de "seguridad nutricional", agregando además los elementos que corresponden a esta seguridad nutricional.

Ello serviría, no solamente para la gente, para la masa consumidora, sino también para mucha gente de alto nivel económico que consume una cantidad de cosas que no alimentan nada y que en realidad, sobre todo ahora que están de moda las dietas, la gente consume un montón de alimentos que tienen mucha fibra y poca nutrición. Sería conveniente entonces contribuir a la educación de esa clase en la mejor manera de lograr su nutrición adecuada.

Creo que con esto satisfacemos nuestras preocupaciones con relación al documento y doy las gracias por darme la palabra, pidiendo excusas a la Secretaría por tratar de hacer esa enmienda que me parece necesaria.

**Ms Simone ROBIN (Canada):** Having participated in the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on Food Security, the delegation endorses the proposed report of the CFS and wishes to make the following comments in relation to paragraph 52, referring to future decisions likely to affect the food security issue and the CFS in the near future.

First, we wish to stress our strong belief that a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round should be achieved, as it remains fundamental to enhancing food security for all countries.

Second, the increased food security uncertainties prevailing in many countries demand an intensified focus by the UN, in order to mobilize the political support and to promote greater coordination between food policies and development policies. In our view, the importance of finding the most effective mechanisms, within the UN system, to achieve that goal in the context of UN reform is critical.

With reference to the discussions on the future of the World Food Council that are about to take place in New York, Canada intends to continue to pursue a solution previously articulated in Nairobi and New York, the key elements of which address three critical questions: firstly, how to ensure the integration of food security into broader development policy and the effective implementation of operational decisions within the overall UN System; secondly, how to strengthen analyses of the food security issue; thirdly, how to ensure ministerial attention and profile to the food security issue.

We flag these Canadian views in the context of this meeting because we perceive an eventually more significant role for the CFS in analysing the range of issues which have an impact on global food security. Where the CFS lacks expertise, it would be our expectation that it would request the collaboration of other UN bodies with that expertise.

**Aguinaldo LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert):** Monsieur le Président, nous voudrions tout d'abord vous manifester notre joie de vous voir une fois de plus à la présidence du Conseil. Nous adressons aux autres membres du Bureau nos félicitations pour leur élection.

Nourriture pour tous doit devenir le souci de tous et s'ériger chaque jour davantage en droit fondamental de l'homme. S'il est vrai que la production d'aliments de base est en baisse, que les stocks tombent à des niveaux critiques, que ne cesse la montée des prix internationaux des céréales, il n'en est pas moins vrai que l'humanité dispose aujourd'hui de ressources alimentaires suffisantes pour se nourrir. Et tout cela, malgré les

sécheresses, les catastrophes naturelles, l'instabilité et les troubles civils qui sévissent un peu partout dans le monde, en Afrique, en Europe et en Asie.

Mais quel sera l'espoir pour les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, en ce qui concerne l'accès aux vivres? De nombreux groupes deviennent particulièrement vulnérables, et la consommation par habitant baisse. Est-ce qu'il y aura une augmentation des engagements d'aide alimentaire face aux besoins accrus d'importation des pays en développement, conjuguée à l'accroissement des coûts des importations commerciales?

Il est de notre devoir de rappeler le Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire, et donc le droit de tous aux aliments dont nous avons besoin pour vivre avec dignité. La RAIU doit pouvoir répondre aux besoins des pays en développement.

Le CSA a examiné quelques approches pour évaluer l'accès des ménages à la nourriture et suivre leur sécurité alimentaire. La délégation du Cap-Vert reconnaît la nécessité d'assurer la durabilité de l'accès aux aliments, réaffirme l'importance des activités d'évaluation et encourage la poursuite de l'étude qui pourrait devenir utile dans la prise des décisions pour l'allocation de l'aide internationale au développement, selon les recommandations du Comité.

Pour ce qui est du fonctionnement du SMIAR, nous aimerions féliciter et remercier le Groupe d'alerte rapide de la FAO qui travaille en étroite collaboration avec le Bureau des opérations spéciales de secours, le Centre de télédétection, le Groupe acridiens, migrants nuisibles et opérations d'urgence, le PAM et diverses ONG pour les rapports périodiques sur la situation météorologique et l'état des cultures au Sahel, les pays concernés et la communauté internationale.

Permettez-moi de reprendre maintenant l'information sur la sécurité alimentaire dans mon pays, le Cap-Vert, depuis la réalisation de la 17ème session du Comité de sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Suite à la sécheresse périodique qui sévit dans cette partie du Sahel, la sécurité alimentaire demeure précaire. Le pays traverse des moments difficiles surmontés grâce à l'aide de nos partenaires internationaux.

Une mission d'évaluation conjointe FAO/CILSS a eu lieu du 17 au 22 octobre et a fait une estimation préalable dépendant d'une suite favorable de pluies, qui ne s'est pas malheureusement vérifiée. Par rapport à l'année dernière, de meilleures conditions se sont vérifiées pour la culture du maïs et des légumineuses qui ont connu des attaques importantes de sauteriaux et d'autres insectes. La situation de l'élevage du bétail s'annonce plus favorable et il ne sera pas nécessaire de faire des importations d'urgence de fourrage ou d'aliments pour le bétail.

Revenant au document soumis à notre examen concernant la fréquence des réunions des comités, nous aimerions appuyer le paragraphe 49 du rapport et nous conformer au contenu de la première partie du paragraphe 52, selon lequel la session de 1993 "examinera ses futures procédures à la lumière des faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et prendra en considération les recommandations des diverses réunions internationales".

**Rolf AKESSON (Sweden):** The monitoring of the global food situation (covered in paragraphs 7-21 of the Report) is a central task not only for the CFS but for the Organization as a whole. We are anxious that this task is carried out in a way consistent with its importance. Along with others we have - primarily in the CFS - suggested improvements in the traditional approach used for monitoring.

On this occasion I just want to put on record our view that much remains to be done in this respect and that the progress so far has been a little bit slow, although we clearly recognize that this is easier said than done. We are, however, concerned about the fact that the monitoring is still heavily focused on the supply side - production, trade and stocks - while factors determining demand and access, such as prices, wages, employment, at most play a fairly minor role, at least in the written assessment which is shown to Members. I recall that the last conference - and I quote - "... urged that more emphasis be placed on factors affecting access to food in future Secretariat assessments".

We appreciate very much the efforts made to pay more attention to the household level (Part III of the Report) and we urge a forceful continuation along that line in such a way that the result very soon will be visible in the regular practical monitoring work.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the old and widespread wish for a reappraisal of the grain stocks indicator which traditionally plays a prominent role in the assessments. Fundamental changes in grain markets have taken place since the concept was launched, and the role of stocks have been re-evaluated, so it is only logical that we take a close look at the possible implications for the FAO grain stocks indicator.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** We appreciate and agree with Mr Hjort's excellent introductory remarks. The United States participated fully in the Seventeenth Session of the CFS and we endorsed its Report. Most of the Agenda Items were handled expeditiously. Discussion of the current food security situation closely parallel the state of food and agriculture discussions we have just completed.

During the important review of the Global Information and Early Warning System Members agreed that the system should not become overly dependent on extra-budgetary resources or that as it is stated in paragraph 45, the main source of financing of the system's core operations must remain the FAO Regular Programme.

While a wide array of views on the frequency of CFS Sessions prevented consensus, the Committee wisely decided to revisit this issue again in 1993. Paragraphs 49 and 50 adequately reflect those views. We were among those countries arguing for biennialization of the CFS meetings. We look forward to reaching a decision on this matter at the Committee's 18th Session.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate, Mr Chairman, having carefully studied the document and the discussion, particularly at paragraphs 8 to 21 related to the assessment of current world food security situation and the recent policy development, my delegation wishes to express its concern over what is

contained in these paragraphs, namely the deterioration in the global food security situation in 1991-92, the decline in the world cereal stocks, the continuous pressures on the international prices of major cereals, and the adverse effects on food-deficit countries in addition to the multiplicity of problems related to the regional food supplies.

However, paragraph 12 dispels some of the concerns. An appeal was made to donor countries to provide all possible assistance to the countries affected in order to support food and agricultural production in these countries. We do hope that this appeal will be heeded and have a positive impact. In addition, paragraph 13 stressed the importance of the Global Information and Early Warning System in monitoring food supply developments with the aim of monitoring the situation and taking timely measures.

My delegation, having reviewed paragraphs 22-28 dealing with the different ways of monitoring access to food and household food security, wishes to welcome the content of this paragraph, in addition to the importance given to supplying a pragmatic approach to the food security concept at the household level through the composite index.

My delegation recognizes the importance of the livestock contribution to food security. We make the necessary efforts in order to promote this sector, with special importance given to the species with higher productivity in providing meat and milk. We also secure sanitary care and the implementation of animal food and fodder production programmes.

Having studied paragraphs 36-46, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction at the positive results achieved by the Global Information and Early Warning System supported by FAO.

My delegation supports the present frequency of the CFS meeting until the relevant amendments are introduced into the UN system.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the Deputy Director-General for his fine introduction to this important document.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Along with many others here, Australia actively participated in the work of this Committee in March of this year. Along with others, we also noted with concern that the level of world cereal stocks was declining and that at the forecast level the ratio of global stocks to trend consumption had fallen to the minimum level considered necessary to safeguard global food security.

The report stresses the importance of examining links between the environment, sustainable agricultural development and agricultural trade policy in relation to world food security.

It agrees that changes in the international economic and trading environment, such as the outcome of the Uruguay Round and the transition to market economies, could have profound implications on food security.

It recognizes that a move towards liberalized trade and reductions in trade distorting support and protection in agriculture, would have positive consequences for world food security. There are, however, many issues involved in the concept of food security. All the aspects of food security should be

fully examined following the Uruguay Round. Australia stands ready to join others in exploring the issues involved.

We support the definition of household food security mentioned in paragraph 23 of the Committee's report; that is, that a household is food secure when it has both physical and economic access to adequate food for all its members and when it is not at undue risk of losing such access.

We were among those countries mentioned in the Committee's report which stressed that the concept of adequacy should include nutritional adequacy as well. Household-level food acquisition should not be considered adequate unless it is sufficient to meet the nutritional needs of the household.

It is becoming increasingly clear that there is a growing recognition internationally of the merit of the Global Information and Early Warning System and the important role that it plays in food needs assessment and identification of emergency food situations.

Australia considers that FAO has a comparative advantage in this area of work and we support fully FAO's continued development of the system. We favour the proposal outlined in paragraph 42 of CL 102/10 regarding the proposed further expansion of commodity coverage, particularly to traditional subsistence foodstuffs.

While we acknowledge the difficulties in obtaining useful data, it is important in the context of assessing food needs to know whether subsistence production is likely to be realized and, if not, whether the shortfall is likely to be extensive or moderate.

On the question of frequency of meetings of the Committee on Food Security, Australia favours the one plus option which is holding one full agenda session per biennium during non-conference years, whilst during conference years a review of the assessment of the world food security situation would be done by another FAO body, perhaps the Committee on Agriculture.

**Carlos BASCO (Argentina):** La delegación Argentina, como miembro del Comité, apoya la presentación del documento y quiere hacer sólo algunas precisiones. En principio la delegación apoya la preocupación de la Organización por el fracaso de la Ronda Uruguay de Negociaciones Comerciales Multilaterales y su implicación sobre la seguridad alimentaria. La delegación también apoya los estudios sobre la aportación de los sectores pesqueros y del ganado rumiante a la seguridad alimentaria. También apoya las inquietudes acerca de que las asignaciones de ayuda alimentaria para las economías en transición sean adicionales a las ya establecidas. También se apoya el incremento del flujo de ayuda alimentaria para situaciones de emergencia y el valor de la utilización de transacciones triangulares y compras locales.

La delegación expresa su apoyo a la liberalización de las políticas comerciales internas e internacionales. Estas mejoran las perspectivas de la seguridad alimentaria a plazo mediano y ofrecen la mejor garantía para los agricultores, productores de alimentos. Estos actualmente enfrentan problemas de falta de competitividad por las prácticas desleales de comercio por parte de algunos países desarrollados.

Entendemos que los grupos de bajos ingresos, vulnerables por aumento de los precios de los alimentos, constituyen principalmente grupos urbanos a quienes se les quiere mantener artificialmente bajos los precios de los alimentos para pagarles bajos salarios. Es pues, éste, un problema de distribución de ingresos del sector urbano y no un problema de los agricultores. Sobre este tema, la delegación Argentina exhorta a la FAO y a los Estados Miembros a una nueva reflexión sobre el tema, porque considera que en varios documentos de la FAO se confunden los términos del problema.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** Permit me a few brief comments on this particular topic to reflect the concern both of my delegation and the CARICOM states. Let me first of all endorse the comments made by the representative of Venezuela and echoed by many others in respect of the linkage between food security and nutritional security.

May I also observe that it is ironic that while we are discussing a report of the Committee on Food Security - in fact we do have within FAO a Chief of Food Security Service - we speak in the document of household security.

At the national level food security seems an anathema when we come to policy dialogue, with many of the multilateral organizations within the context of structural adjustment. I feel that this is indeed ironic.

We wish to make particular note of paragraph 21 of the document before us reflecting the trade distorting support and protection in agriculture and the fact that, if these distortions are removed, there will be more than adequate opportunity for improving the world's food security situation. We want to reflect some concerns that were raised at the recent Latin American Caribbean Regional meeting when it was stressed that, while many countries would benefit from trade liberalization, the advantages will not be adequately shared and some countries could indeed even lose out. In fact, the delegation of the CARICOM states stressed that their states' economies were extremely vulnerable to the changes currently under way in the world market. They also believe that the vulnerability of their economies would make it very difficult for them to adapt to changes that are taking place.

I make these points to underscore the need to ponder on the point raised in the last sentence of paragraph 21 on the importance of perhaps adequate compensation to food importing countries, particularly small, poorly resourced island states like the ones in the Caribbean.

I wish to refer to paragraph 14 which refers to the importance of examining links between the environment, sustainable agricultural development and trade policies in relation to food security. I wish to add that another important consideration in that package is science and technology policies, particularly the changes that are taking place in biotechnology, the technological revolution and the likely impact that can have in a sense in changing what is comparative advantage which some countries now have viz-a-viz production of a range of commodities. We hear of cocoa butter, for example, being made from crops which are not grown in tropical countries.

I figure that has to be part of the dimension that must be looked at in this whole context of food security.



I also make this point to emphasize the need for continuing vigilance of individual countries and continuing assistance by FAO of the work that they must do in this area of food security analysis in support of the concerns that small countries like my own now have.

**Mohmed Said HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate, I thank you, Mr Chairman.

I was very happy to see FAO attach importance to the sector on livestock. I am also very pleased at the report of the Seventeenth Session of the Committee on World Food Agriculture. This Committee dealt with the contribution of livestock and ruminant animals to food security.

I am the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in the Sudan. I am deeply honoured to welcome the experts from FAO who are helping us to promote animal species in my country through various techniques and also in order to combat various illnesses and abortion cases in animals.

We also attach importance to the quality of meat. We hope that this expertise will help our country and the region as a whole. This sector is very important. We hope that everyone recognizes the importance of animals and livestock because animals provide us with meat, with skins and with hides; the horns have uses as well. Calves' horns are even used by artists. Various animals have different uses at the household level and at the national level. In Paris each May there is a meeting related to epidemics in animals. This is a way of recognizing the importance of animals in securing food supplies.

We think that FAO has a unique role in this connection, in cooperation with the international bureau dealing with this issue. We hope the necessary support will be given to the CFS in this connection.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons terminé la liste des orateurs. Il n'y a pas d'observateurs inscrits. Je vais donner la parole au Directeur général adjoint.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I believe there were two specific questions. First, in connection with training of national staff in early warning methods, FAO has limited resources to finance periodic workshops at the regional levels at which national staff engaged in national early warning activities participate. The most recent workshop for Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok in 1991. In addition, FAO provides technical assistance through the Food Security Assistance Scheme to member countries which request it for the establishment and strengthening of national and regional early warning and food information systems. These are financed with extra-budgetary resources, however. In this connection, work is under way on the preparation of an FAO manual on the establishment and operation of food security information systems which will be available for widespread dissemination, and a proposal is currently under development for establishing an ASEAN early warning network. With regard to the specific question about the status of the proposal for FAO assistance in the evaluation of the ASEAN food security reserve, this has been sent to the Government of Japan for consideration. We are awaiting the reply on the prospects of financing from that Government. FAO will be represented at the forthcoming meeting of the ASEAN Food Security Board in Bangkok later this

month, at which time other options for making an early start may be considered. Further information on this important matter will be communicated to the Food Security Committee at its next session, when the Secretariat will also be reporting on the results of related work in the South Asian region.

Turning now to the more general points, as is always the case when we discuss food and agricultural matters, the Ambassador from Venezuela gives us "food for thought", as did many others at this particular session. We appreciate those thoughts and will take them into account in our further work. There were some references which permit me to make the point that I know member countries have alternative sources of advice on food and agricultural matters including food security. I know that some of you take advice from bankers or financing institutions instead of your food and agricultural organization. I fully understand that the person with the cheque book sometimes has greater access and that maybe you listen more carefully in those circumstances, but I want to remind you that this Organization is your organization; it stands ready to respond to your request for assistance on your food and agricultural policy matters, so try us.

In connection with the comments of Sweden on the Global Information and Early Warning System and in the general context of monitoring, a point was made that much remains to be done, that we are still heavy on the supply side in our monitoring work in general. That is fair enough. There is always much that remains to be done. However, to capture or summarize the comments that were made about the Global Information and Early Warning System and to recall the experience, particularly in this year when it has been tested very hard in connection with the phenomenal number of emergencies which have taken place, it has become the standard. There is no comparable source of information. It is the Global Information and Early Warning System which provides the information for consolidated, complex emergency appeals which are coordinated by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. It is the Global Information and Early Warning System which clears and updates the monthly reports which all concerned receive from the United Nations system on updated emergency matters. It has been tested. There is a long way to go. But at the present time it is number one. I think that was generally the sentiment which was expressed here.

As far as other matters are concerned, I did not hear anyone say that one should not go forward with the approaches to assessing food security which are outlined: the additional studies, the study of livestock, other than ruminants - I think we should use that expression rather than "non-ruminants" - and on fish. Certainly there was strong support for the Global Information and Early Warning System.

With respect to the frequency of sessions, there were some views expressed on "one-off" and so on, but here again I did not hear anybody suggest an approach other than that which came out of the Committee, and therefore I assume that there is general endorsement that the matter should be taken up again at the next session of the CFS.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous arrivons au terme de nos travaux. De nombreuses questions intéressantes ont été abordées, et de manière très brève. La dimension nutritionnelle du problème de la sécurité alimentaire a été bien soulignée. Nous pensons également que l'étude concernant l'élevage et les ruminants doit être faite ainsi que l'étude concernant la contribution du secteur des pêches à la sécurité alimentaire.

En ce qui concerne le SMIAR, tout le monde a exprimé sa satisfaction à l'égard du fonctionnement de ce système et tout le monde est parfaitement conscient du fait que ce système ne fonctionne bien que grâce à un certain nombre d'apports extrabudgétaires. Le souhait a évidemment été émis que le budget ordinaire puisse prendre le plus possible en charge l'ensemble du coût du SMIAR mais il est entendu que cela aura des implications financières importantes dans le cadre de la discussion du prochain Programme de travail et budget. Mais je crois qu'au stade actuel, ce soutien extrabudgétaire reste indispensable.

En ce qui concerne la fréquence des sessions, il est décidé que, lors de la dix-huitième session, en mars ou avril 1993, la question sera abordée et résolue étant entendu que, si des modifications au Règlement général concernant le statut du Comité de sécurité alimentaire prévu à l'article XXXIII doivent être apportées, c'est à la Conférence de novembre 1993 qu'il appartiendra d'adopter les amendements voulus au texte qui régit ce Comité.

Je voudrais dire que la discussion porte sur le Rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et pas sur d'autres problèmes qui pourraient être abordés dans d'autres cas, notamment au sujet de propositions de résolutions dont n'avons pas connaissance et qui seraient présentées dans d'autres enceintes, peut-être à New York à propos du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

Nous aurons l'occasion de discuter des événements survenus récemment dans le système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO à propos du point 9 qui sera discuté jeudi matin.

S'il n'y a pas d'objections, nous allons considérer que le Rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire est adopté.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.





**council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 102/PV/5

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1992)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière 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:** Je déclare ouverte la cinquième séance plénière de notre Conseil.

Je voudrais, avant d'examiner le point 6, rappeler que le Conseil, qui est l'organe exécutif de la Conférence, est habilité à traiter de toutes les questions que vous estimez devoir examiner, suivant les procédures et le Règlement général de notre Organisation. Si vous désirez soulever tel ou tel point, vous pouvez le faire selon la procédure prévue c'est-à-dire avec l'approbation des deux tiers des voix.

II. ORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

6. Recent Developments in the Field of International Fisheries

6. Faits nouveaux survenus récemment dans le domaine des pêches internationales

6. Novedades en el sector de la pesca internacional

6.1. Responsible Fishing

6.1. La pêche responsable

6.1. Pesca responsable

6.2. Regime of High Seas Fishing

6.2. Régime de la pêche en haute mer

6.2. Régimen de pesca en alta mar

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le point 6 concerne les faits nouveaux survenus récemment dans le domaine des pêches internationales. Ce point nous est soumis pour examen et éventuellement pour décision - le terme "éventuellement" étant superfétatoire, en ce sens que nous aurons des décisions à prendre.

Nous sommes saisis de deux documents: les documents 102/19 et 102/20 intitulés respectivement: "Faits nouveaux survenus récemment dans le domaine des pêches internationales - la pêche responsable" et "Faits nouveaux survenus récemment dans le domaine des pêches internationales - Régime juridique de la pêche en haute mer".

Je voudrais tout d'abord rappeler qu'en vertu du document CL 102/INF/19, il s'agit d'un domaine de la compétence de la Communauté économique européenne et que le droit de parole et le droit de vote se trouvent entre les mains de la Communauté puisqu'il s'agit d'une matière de compétence exclusive. La question sera peut-être d'ailleurs soulevée à propos de la situation plus précise de la France et du Royaume-Uni en ce qui concerne leur droit de parole et de vote pour des territoires qui ne sont pas situés en Europe.

C'est un problème complexe que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques connaît bien et que le Conseiller juridique de notre Organisation, M. Moore, connaît mieux encore.

Avant de passer la parole au Sous-Directeur général du Département des pêches, je voudrais vous rappeler que les pêches ont fait l'objet d'un long examen lors de la 99ème session du Conseil de la FAO qui s'est tenue du 10 au

21 juin 1991, sur la base du rapport de la dix-neuvième session du Comité des pêches qui a eu lieu en avril 1991.

Le rapport du Conseil, qui est extrêmement complet, fait état de la situation en ses paragraphes 103 à 117. Un certain nombre de faits nouveaux sont intervenus depuis 1991, faits nouveaux qui ont abouti à deux documents. Pourquoi deux documents? Vous vous souviendrez que nous avons décidé de discuter de ces deux documents - le 19 et le 20 - ensemble. Nous traiterons donc les deux sous-points en une seule et même discussion. En effet, il s'agit de sujets qui sont étroitement liés et la séparation des deux documents est due au fait qu'ils se réfèrent à deux réunions qui se sont tenues dans un intervalle de quatre mois. C'est la raison pour laquelle le document 102/20 vous a été distribué tout récemment.

Je voudrais signaler que le point 6.1 a, conformément au Règlement général de notre Organisation, été présenté à la demande du Mexique en application de l'article XXV paragraphe 7(b) qui stipule que: "tout membre du Conseil peut, trente jours au moins avant la date prévue pour une session, demander au Directeur général d'inscrire une question à l'ordre du jour provisoire". Le Mexique a donc demandé que soient examinés au cours de cette session le problème des pêches et notamment les résultats de la très importante Conférence internationale sur la pêche responsable, organisée au Mexique, à Cancún, du 6 au 8 mai 1992 en consultation avec la FAO.

Le second document, c'est-à-dire le point 6.2 (CL 102/20) a été ajouté par le Secrétariat en raison de son étroite relation avec le premier sous-point: déclaration de Cancún, et la nécessité pour le Conseil d'examiner un certain nombre de questions de nature politique, dérivant directement de la Consultation technique sur la pêche en haute mer organisée par la FAO à Rome du 7 au 15 septembre 1992. De nombreuses questions, de nature technique, restent en suspens et devront donc être discutées ultérieurement par le Comité des pêches qui se réunira en mars 1993.

Les questions principales qui nous sont soumises concernent le Code international de conduite pour une pêche responsable. L'examen de cette proposition concernant ce code international de conduite, a fait l'objet d'un examen approfondi dont la déclaration de Cancún fait état.

Il appartiendra à notre Conseil d'entreprendre les actions préparatoires à l'élaboration de ce code et normalement lors de la réunion de mars 1993 du Comité des pêches (COFI), les premières propositions concernant le contenu technique de ce code et les procédures pour sa préparation, son élaboration et sa mise en vigueur seront présentées.

Le second point pour lequel l'avis de notre Conseil nous paraît indispensable, c'est la préparation d'une Conférence internationale des Nations Unies sur la pêche en haute mer. Le Conseil, en juin 1991, ainsi que la Conférence de 1991 ont recommandé que notre consultation technique sur la pêche en haute mer soit suivie d'une consultation gouvernementale ad hoc.

La convocation d'une réunion internationale a été discutée à Cancún et à Rio de Janeiro où la CNUED, au point 21 de son ordre du jour, recommande qu'une conférence sur le même sujet soit organisée sous les auspices des Nations Unies avec la contribution technique et scientifique de la FAO. Nous aurons l'occasion d'en reparler mais il nous paraît important que sur ce point

précis les avis du Conseil puissent être présentés lors des discussions qui se dérouleront à New York aux Nations Unies.

La troisième question concerne le changement de pavillon des bateaux de pêche. C'est une question complexe mais qui suscitera vraisemblablement moins de controverses car la majorité des pays sont d'accord pour que des mesures soient prises à ce sujet.

La consultation technique à laquelle je fais allusion a souhaité que le prochain Comité des pêches se penche sur cette question et nous allons soumettre à l'approbation du Conseil l'organisation des préparatifs qui pourrait consister en la convocation d'un petit groupe d'experts qui se réunirait début 1993 pour apporter au COFI les éléments de discussion approfondie sur la question de changement de pavillon des bateaux de pêche. A la suite de ceux que je viens de citer, deux autres points sont soumis à l'avis du Conseil:

Le premier point est le renforcement du rôle des organismes régionaux et sous-régionaux des pêches, leur coopération et leur coordination. Le prochain Comité des pêches discutera du rôle de la FAO à ce sujet, et en particulier, décidera ou présentera au Conseil la proposition relative à l'organisation d'un forum pour la consultation entre ces différents organismes régionaux et sous-régionaux.

Le second point est le renforcement des capacités des pays en voie de développement pour leur participation à la pêche en haute mer.

Le Conseil soulignera probablement le fait que les organisations internationales et les donateurs s'intéressent à ce domaine.

Je pense qu'il était important de sérier les problèmes et je demanderai maintenant à tous les intervenants de se prononcer sur ces différentes questions.

**W. KRONE (Assistant Director-General, a.i., Fisheries Department):** I do not think I can match your introduction, Mr Chairman, which is already very complete; but before summarizing some of the major conclusions and recommendations arising out of the two meetings which the Chairman has already briefly explained, allow me to give you some brief account of the current situation in world marine fisheries.

Ten years ago the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted. At that time the new convention meant the end of the era of freedom of fishing within 200 nautical miles, where 95 percent of the fishery resources were estimated to be found. The new era promised expectations for rational management and conservation of living marine resources and a retrenchment of fishing fleets.

Now, a decade later, a review of the situation indicates that the size of the world's fishing fleet has continued to increase at a rate estimated to be twice the increase of marine fish catches from the oceans. In most regions the maximum of fish production had already been reached in the early 1980s. Since then, production increases have mostly come from five shoaling small pelagic species subject to large year-to-year fluctuations. The major ground level stocks are over-exploited. It is now an undisputed fact that the overall



fishing pressure threatens the sustainability of fishery resources, and that applies to both fishery resources on the high seas as well as to many resources under national jurisdiction.

In a recent analysis of the costs and revenues in marine fishing, which will be published in the next SOFA report in a special chapter, we have come to alarming conclusions: the costs of harvesting the marine catches exceed their value by probably more than 50 percent. A reasonable return to the capital invested in fishing boats would consume almost one half of the annual revenue from marine fishing. But current landed values of marine fisheries do not even cover the operating costs, let alone some interest on the capital invested. These aggregate figures do not, of course, mean that all fisheries are losing money. Some are indeed still doing quite well. But if some are making profits, others will be even worse off. The situation survives only thanks to enormous subsidies.

We have, of course, to recognize that government fishery policies in some countries have rated the production of food from seas or the gaining of foreign exchange from fishery products as higher priority than the possible losses in economic terms associated with such policies. The production of protein from the seas was calculated to be cheaper than from land resources in a number of centrally planned economies. However, it is unlikely that such policies will be tenable in the future.

We have known for some time that most fishery resources are exploited at or beyond their maximum, and FAO has not spared any opportunity to point this out at many meetings and in many documents. But what we all did not clearly recognize until recently is that this high level of resource utilization is achieved with incredibly high costs and economic waste. The call for better management of marine fishery resources, both within national exclusive economic zones and on the high seas, cannot be loud enough. Fishing capacities have to be curtailed and they have to be curtailed quite drastically.

It can be roughly estimated that a reduction of fishing capacity by about 25 percent would not only decrease aggregate fishing costs by near to 50 percent, it would also result - after an adjusting period in which fish stocks could recuperate - in a increase in volume of catches and thus food supplies from marine fisheries, by perhaps 10 to 15 percent; it would certainly result in higher valued species and size composition of marine harvests. Marine fisheries would thus become profitable again.

Why is what seems so obvious not being done? Mr Chairman, the difficulties of reducing fishing effort and fleet sizes are well known to the fishery administrators and managers. The low level of income in many fishing activities makes the task particularly arduous, because of the immediate social and political implications. It is a situation which perpetuates itself, unless the vicious cycle is broken. If subsidies are necessary, the money might better be used to get people out of the business instead of keeping them in - at the very economic margin. The subsequent benefits will more than compensate for the subsidies paid.

Mr Chairman, it is against this background that the two events which I will now report briefly on have to be seen.

The Declaration of Cancún makes this very clear. Reiterating the importance of fishery products as a source of nutrition for the people of the world, it

recommends to the United Nations that the next ten years be declared the "Decade of Responsible Fishing" and it calls upon FAO to draft, in consultation with relevant international organizations, an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. It also underlines the inter-relationship of international fisheries and trade issues.

The Declaration of Cancún was adopted unanimously by the 66 countries represented, the majority, at ministerial level. His Excellency, the Minister of Fisheries of Mexico, already on Monday brought this Declaration to your attention, and I need not dwell on the further details of it. It is certainly a most important document for international fisheries and will accompany international discussions for a long time to come. We are seeking here your endorsement to go ahead with the request directed to FAO, that is, to elaborate on a draft International Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing. It would then be our intention to present to the next session of your Committee on Fisheries in March next year, first proposals for the possible technical content of such a code and procedures for its preparation, approval and implementation.

The second meeting I wish to report upon concerned a particularly burning issue of international fisheries, that of fishing on the high seas. While management of fisheries within national jurisdiction has often not been very effective, for the high seas there is not even an adequate mechanism for management existing. And the pressure of international fishing fleets has been mounting rapidly, because it is on the high seas where surplus capacities tend to move when there is no other opportunity. There is now increasing concern that high seas resources are not exploited in a sustainable manner and that unacceptable and irreversible environmental damage could occur. This is not so much a question of the type of fishing gear used but the amount of such **gear** chasing limited numbers of fish.

FAO has recognized the extent and depth of international concern for high seas fisheries management and first addressed the issue in the context of large-scale driftnet fishing. As a consequence of FAO's contribution to this debate and its role in helping to resolve the difficulties that had developed, your Council directed that we should continue to focus attention on broader issues associated with high seas fishing and instructed us to organize, in close collaboration with the UN Division on Ocean Affairs on the Laws of the Sea and concerned international fisheries organizations, and convene a Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing. This Technical Consultation was to be followed by an ad hoc government consultation.

The Technical Consultation held here in Rome in September reaffirmed that the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the principal legal framework for the development of a regime for high seas fishing. It dealt with a great number of very specific and partly very intricate technical and scientific issues, which will be reviewed and debated in detail at the next session of your Committee on Fisheries. It is not intended that we discuss these issues here, nor is it intended that we should approve or not approve the Report of the Technical Consultation. This is up to COFI and COFI will report to you next year in your June session. If we have felt it necessary already now to report to you on this meeting, it is because some specific policy issues require your immediate attention.

Firstly: the question of an International Conference on High Seas Fishing. The need for such a meeting has been confirmed by UNCED in its Agenda 21,

particularly with a view to promoting effective implementation of the provisions of the 1982 Convention on straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. It is recommended there that such a Conference should be convened under UN auspices, and that it should draw, inter alia, on scientific and technical studies by FAO. As I stated earlier, we have closely consulted with the UN Secretariat on the preparation of our Technical Consultation, which must be regarded as an important preparatory step to such a Conference, and thus we are prepared to continue such collaboration for the intergovernmental conference. It is understood that the current UN General Assembly will consider the modalities of holding such a intergovernmental conference in 1993. The discussions in New York are still at an early stage but a draft resolution, which is currently circulating in the corridors of UN Headquarters, suggests the holding of two sessions in 1993, the first one from 13 to 25 April to deal with matters relating to the organization of the Conference and the second one to be held from 19 to 30 July for the purpose of dealing with substantive matters and, as appropriate, considering its future work programme. It would seem that a fairly elaborate process of negotiations is foreseen. In the light of these developments, your Council may wish to reconsider its decision, taken at the Ninety-ninth Session in 1991, concerning the need for an FAO-sponsored intergovernmental consultation.

The second point I want to highlight is that the Consultation welcomed the Declaration of Cancún and the request to FAO to initiate the preparation of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. There was some discussion at the Technical Consultation whether such a code should be limited to high-seas fishing or whether it should also cover other aspects of responsible fishing and fisheries management. Perhaps this matter should be left for further discussions by your Committee on Fisheries when it considers details about the possible technical content of such a code. At this stage, Mr Chairman, we are requesting the endorsement of your Council, as already mentioned, to go ahead with further preparations in order to allow COFI to have a substantive and fruitful discussion on the matter.

The third point, also highlighted by you, Mr Chairman, was that there was very widespread concern about the growing habit of high seas fishing vessels, owners to reflag their boats as a means to avoid compliance with conservation and management measures and fair trade practices, and FAO was asked to study the matter, in consultation with UNCTAD and other international organizations concerned. We are requesting your agreement that we look into this matter and report to COFI about it and have COFI's recommendation on how to pursue this matter further.

Finally, the Consultation underlined some other policy issues, notably the need to strengthen the role of regional and sub-regional fishery bodies in high seas fisheries management and to enhance cooperation and coordination between such bodies. COFI will probably wish to consider the role of FAO in this respect, in particular whether FAO should provide a forum for closer consultation between these bodies. The last point and certainly not the least important, Mr Chairman, concerned the participation of developing countries in the exploitation of high seas fisheries resources. Your Council will certainly wish to express its views on the need to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to promote such participation.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons à la discussion générale de cette intéressante matière.

**Armin LINDQUIST (Sweden):** First of all, Mr Chairman, I wish to thank you for your very competent introduction. I specifically wish to thank my former colleague, Mr Krone, for the very detailed presentation of the problems which are complex.

Going right to the point, document CL 102/19 describes very well the background of the preparation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

As we see it, this is one of the most important exercises. We should also remember that this work has already started, namely the preparation of the background documentation for the Cancún Conference. This was at least partly carried out by the Fisheries Department of the FAO; so work has already started.

The Declaration of Cancún, which is very important and very detailed, calls upon FAO to draft such a code as you, Mr Chairman, have said will be most helpful, to provide guidelines for this work.

The inclusion by the Director-General of this work in the Programme of Work and Budget and in the Medium-Term Plan of the Organization is noted with great satisfaction.

Considering the findings of the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing, held here in Rome at FAO Headquarters in September, the Government of Sweden considers that the problem of reflagging fishing vessels, which is a special issue within the Code of Conduct, needs action urgently. In some parts of the world reflagging of fishing vessels is done with the obvious purpose of avoiding compliance with existing fishing regulations on the high seas. It is therefore advisable that the matter be handled by FAO separately from the Code of Conduct. This could be a more practical approach, as consultations are needed with UNCTAD and with the IMO. A special effort should be made by FAO and this should start in the near future.

One issue in the preparation of the Code of Conduct will be how one should proceed when scientific data are scarce or non-existent and how uncertainties should be handled in the context of management.

It seems that guidelines are needed. My Government is fully in agreement with Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration and envisages the need for more technical consultations and discussions.

The document before us draws attention to the important role of regional fishery bodies in implementing responsible fishing. For this, administrative and political action is needed. It is therefore recommended that meetings of regional fisheries bodies should be attended more than at present and also in the future by personalities with sufficient executive power.

My Government would appreciate a preliminary report on FAO's progress on the work with the Code of Conduct be given at the next session of the Committee on Fisheries in March 1993.

The issue of high seas fishing is of concern both to developed and to developing countries. High seas fishing is presently mostly unregulated, like all other fisheries management. It is noted that FAO has been in the forefront of finding ways on how to proceed on high seas issues, starting in 1990 with an expert consultation on large-scale pelagic driftnets.

The FAO Conference in November 1991 endorsed the holding of an ad hoc government consultation on high seas fishing. The Cancún Conference on responsible fishing calls upon the FAO to draft an International Code of Conduct which would become of great relevance to all fisheries, including those on the high seas. The Cancún Declaration also called upon states to resolve the problems which still existed at that time in convening an "Inter-Governmental Conference on High Seas Fisheries".

In Agenda 21 of UNCED it was agreed that an international conference under United Nation's auspices be convened. (See Chapter 17, programme area C). Of course, all those endorsements aim towards the same goal, i.e., to reach an international consensus on this important issue.

The Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing held in September here in Rome provides the necessary technical "backbone" for future considerations. The Swedish delegation is of the opinion that thus an important part of the present knowledge, which points to a great lack of data, is now available for the ensuing work, in one or more meetings.

Management of high seas fishing is one of the unresolved international issues. In this context, it should be recalled that the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development was held in 1984 here in Rome and that this Conference unanimously adopted a strategy for fisheries management and development. It is the opinion of my Government that, considering the wide experience in this field and the expertise available at Headquarters, FAO should have the leading role in follow-up activities, and we request the Council to decide that the International Conference on High Seas Fishing be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome and be serviced by the FAO Secretariat, in close cooperation with other international organizations.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quisiera ahora entregar la palabra a la representante de los Estados Unidos de México. Ya oímos el lunes por la tarde al Sr. Jiménez Morales, Secretario de Estado de Pesca, quien nos introdujo la materia de la pesca responsable y quisiera agradecer especialmente a los Estados Unidos de México por la organización de esta importante Conferencia de Cancún y la Declaración, que he estudiado con mucha atención, y que me parece una base muy importante para el futuro de la pesca.

**Sra. M. LIZARRAGA (México):** Su introducción, Sr. Presidente, facilitami tarea y, desde luego, deseo también felicitar la excelente, extensa y clara presentación hecha por el Dr. Krone. Felicitamos también los documentos que han sido presentados por la Secretaría ya que de una manera breve dan cuenta de los resultados de dos eventos muy importantes. La Reunión de Cancún, que como ya fue expresado aquí, contó con una alta representatividad: sesenta y seis países con veintiocho ministros o funcionarios de pesca del más alto nivel, así como la presencia de organismos gubernamentales y no gubernamentales que hacen a la Declaración de Cancún un instrumento con directrices válidas a organismos y países para hacer de la pesca una actividad cada día más importante para contribuir a los objetivos universales de asegurar la alimentación, la generación de empleo y bienestar basándola en el conocimiento y uso racional de los recursos pesqueros, para garantizar su sostenibilidad, la práctica de la captura y la acuicultura a través de sistemas armónicos con el ambiente. Su transformación, que garantice el mantenimiento de la calidad y las prácticas comerciales que hagan que el

beneficio tanto de los distribuidores como los consumidores sea en un contexto socioeconómico justo.

De otra parte, y también en forma relacionada, se celebró en el seno de nuestra Organización en septiembre pasado, la Consulta de Expertos sobre Pesca en Alta Mar que permitió discutir en extenso una gran variedad de temas que conllevan, asimismo, a buscar el uso racional de los recursos migratorios y transzonales a través de prácticas responsables ratificando que la misma debe ser, sin menoscabo de los principios, preconizados por la CONVEMAR.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, desea dar el completo apoyo a lo expresado en lo relativo a la Reunión sobre Pesca de Alta Mar por el distinguido delegado de Suecia. Mi país preconiza en todos los foros el diálogo y la concertación como forma para conciliar ideas e intereses. Los recursos naturales y su ambiente pueden, y deben ser utilizados bajo esquemas de ordenación y desarrollo que permitan que las generaciones actuales y venideras las aprovechen para su bienestar. Por ello, debemos convenir reglas y prácticas en un contexto multilateral, y en pesca el único foro verdaderamente multilateral y universal es el de nuestra Organización. Razón por la que apelamos a que sea aquí donde lleguemos a todos los acuerdos a nivel de todos los elementos que conforman la cadena de la actividad pesquera, desde el recurso y su ambiente, pasando por los sistemas de captura y transformación, y las prácticas justas de mercadeo válidas para todos y en todas las áreas, evidentemente, con sus propias características según el caso.

Como lo expresara aquí nuestro Secretario de Estado de Pesca en la reunión inicial de esta Sesión del Consejo, el Gobierno de México, apoyando la iniciativa definida por nuestros países en el seno del COFI la impulsó a través de la Reunión de Cancún sobre Pesca Responsable apoyando y apoyándose en nuestra Organización, a la que reiteramos todos nuestro mayor reconocimiento. Creemos que esta forma de reconocimiento y apoyo mutuo permitiría avanzar en muchos temas que requieren de mayor impulso.

Dicho esto, Sr. Presidente, y dado que nuestro Secretario de Pesca hizo una presentación en extenso sobre el tema, me limitaré a ratificar la solicitud para que este Consejo endose la Declaración de Cancún y dé el mandato al Director General para que formalmente se elabore el Código de Conducta sobre Pesca Responsable y formalice a través de los conductos apropiados las negociaciones para su aprobación e implementación. El Dr Krone ha dado una explicación muy detallada de cómo estos mecanismos pueden ser ejecutados.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, deseamos que este Consejo recomiende también a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas un mayor apoyo a los Programas de Pesca para que el Departamento pueda cumplir con su valioso apoyo a los países en esta importante tarea.

**M.S. GILL (India):** The Indian delegation fully shares the concerns detailed in the Council documents CL 102/19 and CL 102/20 underlining the urgent need for the establishment of principles and guidelines for responsible fishing and an equitable regime of high sea fishing consistent with sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources. We acknowledge the need for raising the current global fisheries output through better management of resources, using low value fish for human consumption as well as for animal feed, and developing rural aquaculture to generate incomes for fishing communities. India is implementing the Bay of Bengal Project for the benefit of small

scale fishing communities in the fields of post-harvest technologies, marketing support, brackish water aquaculture, and extension of production technologies.

The vital issues concerning excessive exploitation of straddling stocks, excess fishing capacity, improved fishing practices and conservation of marine genetic resources have been recently discussed in the International Conference on Responsible Fishing at Cancún, Mexico. India actively participated in the deliberations of that Conference and strongly commends the Cancún Declaration for implementation. The proposal before the Council today to include in the Programme of Work and Budget 1993-94 and the Medium-Term Plan the arrangement for preparation of a draft of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing is in consonance with the recommendations of the Cancún Declaration and fully deserves our support.

We are also glad to note that UNCED in June 1992 took note of the Cancún Declaration and has recommended action in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 in regard to sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources of the high seas.

The Indian delegation, taking note of the UNCED proposal for a UN intergovernmental conference on straddling stocks and migratory species, feels that FAO needs to provide full technical support for the convening of such a conference under UN auspices.

India participated in the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing held in Rome in September 1992 to discuss technical and scientific issues in the management of high seas fisheries. We support the conclusions of the Consultation and urge expeditious action, particularly in regard to enhancing developing countries' capabilities, international cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels, the setting up of a high seas regime and the preparation of a code of conduct for responsible fishing.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of India for his very interesting intervention and for the clear answers to the different questions.

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America):** Increasing demands have been placed on living marine resources on the high seas following the development of the coastal state 200 nautical mile zone regime under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Several high seas living marine resource conservation and/or management regimes or agreements have been developed in recent years to help manage more effectively this important food resource. In addition, conferences such as the UN Conference on Environment and Development and the International Conference on Responsible Fishing held in Cancún, Mexico, have sought to lay the groundwork for an even more effective fisheries management regime.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the international community has witnessed a growing threat to the integrity of the multilateral regime being established for the conservation and management of living marine resources. Fishing vessels flying the flag of a country party to such an arrangement have increasingly reflagged to non-contracting countries to avoid the fishing restrictions which would otherwise apply.

This problem has been addressed in a number of international fora. For example, at the 45th UN General Assembly, in 1990, the General Assembly expressed concern about reports of reflagging of vessels by some private fishing interests which is contrary to the spirit and intent of earlier UN General Assembly resolutions on driftnet fishing. In the Agenda 21 Oceans Chapter, adopted at the UNCED meeting, the participants noted that states should take effective action to deter fishing-vessel reflagging by their nationals who may seek to avoid compliance with high seas fishing conservation and management rules. Both the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (November 1991) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (June 1992) have adopted resolutions calling for measures to prevent the reflagging of vessels to avoid conservation measures.

In the Declaration of Cancún issued at the conclusion of the International Conference on Responsible Fishing, the problem of reflagging was addressed in the following words: "States should take effective action, consistent with international law, to deter reflagging of vessels as a means of avoiding compliance with applicable conservation and management rules for fishing activities on the high seas."

Finally, at FAO's Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing, the participants agreed that there is an urgent need to address this problem. The consultation recommended that the issue be brought to the attention of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries for the Committee to consider means through which an international agreement could be reached as quickly as possible to prevent the reflagging of vessels for the purpose of noncompliance with internationally agreed conservation and management regimes for high seas fisheries.

The Committee on Fisheries will meet next March. The United States recommends that the Council take note of the recommendations of the Technical Consultation and request the Committee's assistance in dealing with this problem. For example, the Committee could facilitate the necessary international cooperation consistent with its terms of reference under Rule XXX 6.(b) of the General Rules which authorizes it to "conduct periodic general reviews of fishery problems of an international character and appraise such problems and their possible solutions with a view to concerted actions by nations, by FAO, and by other intergovernmental bodies."

Such a general review and appraisal of possible solutions to the high seas reflagging problem could include consideration of the following:

- (a) Collection and sharing of information concerning the nature and extent of the problem;
- (b) Development of information programs to advise fishermen and marine fishery management and enforcement entities of the problem and to enlist their assistance in resolving it; and
- (c) Implementation of preventive and remedial measures where appropriate, including considering the desirability of holding a technical conference of FAO members to prepare and submit to FAO's membership an international convention under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution that addresses the reflagging problem on a long-term basis.



The reflagging problem is one of great urgency for many nations, including my own. In discussing with members of the Secretariat the requirements for using the FAO structure as a forum for developing an international convention on this issue, it became apparent that even though we have one year before the next conference, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for a technical conference to negotiate a suitable text and for the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Council, and the Conference to take the required actions prior to the 28th Conference in 1995. To help shorten this time frame, in the hope of approving an agreement at the 27th Conference in 1993, my Government believes that this Council should authorize the Director-General to convene a technical conference, as provided for in Article VI.5 of the Constitution, to develop a draft agreement dealing with the reflagging problem once the Committee on fisheries has recommended that a technical conference be convened for this purpose. Such a technical conference should be held as soon after the next meeting of the Committee on Fisheries as possible.

In the paper prepared by the Secretariat on this issue, there is the suggestion that the problem of reflagging might initially be considered by a small group of experts convened by FAO in collaboration with the UN Conference on Trade and Development and other international organizations concerned. Given the fact that experts have considered this item at the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing and in other fora, and have recommended an international convention to address the reflagging problem, my delegation questions the necessity of such an expert group. If such a group is established, however, we would strongly urge that it conclude its review of this problem prior to the meeting of the Committee on Fisheries which is being held March 15-19, 1993. I would add at this point that I note from Mr Krone's remarks earlier that this is, in fact, the intention of FAO.

Further, my Government would like to endorse the proposal of the Secretariat that the intergovernmental consultation referred to in paragraph 2 of document CL 102/20 be cancelled in light of the proposed UN intergovernmental conference on straddling stocks and highly migratory species. My Government can also support the recommendation contained in CL 102/20 that FAO initiate the preparation of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing as long as such preparations do not prejudice or preempt the outcome of the Code nor conflict with the post-UNCED UN intergovernmental conference or the UNGA activity related to it.

In conclusion, I believe that we were all impressed by the eloquence of the Secretary of State for Fisheries of Mexico, Guillermo Jimenez Morales, in drawing our attention to the urgent necessity for multilateral action to manage our fisheries resources better. We recognize that reflagging is but one of many issues that need to be addressed. We would stress, however, that the need for effective means to prevent the reflagging of vessels to avoid high seas conservation and/or management programs is a prerequisite for the creation of an effective management regime. It is also an issue on which there is a great deal of international consensus. FAO should proceed as quickly as possible to help the international community resolve this problem.

That concludes my prepared remarks, Mr Chairman, but you have raised as has the Swedish delegation, the question of FAO's role in the upcoming UNCED process. I believe that FAO has already a full plate before it. It may well have to deal with preparations for the International Code of Conduct and, of course, we would like it to deal with this reflagging issue. It also has to

deal with its normal workload which is considerable, particularly in the fisheries area.

Secondly, I think it would be inappropriate for the Council to try to undo a decision which was reached last June by UNCED which limited FAO to the scientific and technical role which was outlined in the UNCED documents. Therefore, I believe that we should not expand FAO's role in the UNCED process beyond that which has already been agreed to. Ultimately, of course, the decision is with the General Assembly in New York.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre intervention. Concernant la conférence technique, il me paraît possible de la prévoir entre le Comité des pêches et le prochain Conseil de juin 1993.

Par ailleurs, il sera tenu compte des dernières remarques qui ont été formulées. Les avis du Conseil seront transmis bien entendu aux instances responsables des Nations Unies qui seront amenées à prendre les décisions qui s'imposent.

**Saleh SADIQ OSMAN (Tanzania):** Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to intervene at this time on the subject of Developments in the Field of International Fisheries Regime of High Seas Fishing. May I assure you that my delegation gives full support to the Cancún Declaration made in May 1992. My delegation also supports and commends the conclusion reached by the Technical Consultation held in Rome in September 1992. We are pessimistic that technical work in this field could result in the elaboration of guidelines which would lead to a Code of Conduct on Fishing Practices, thus contributing to the rational utilization and management of living resources, including those of the high seas.

Although fisheries resources are a renewable resource, if we are not going to be careful in its exploitation we will find ourselves in the pathetic situation of over-exploitation, or even going to the extent of depletion. Therefore, we need to be very careful in the exploitation of these resources. We would only be able to plan proper measures if we were able to know the existing straddling stocks in our waters. It is obvious that stock assessment needs to be carried out and this can be done with donor assistance in the following manner:

- (i) strengthening of our fisheries data collection and processing them properly in order to highlight the stock situation; and
- (ii) acoustic surveys which are then checked by random fishing sampling surveys would highlight the situation.

With all due respect, if we were able to get this information, only then would we be able to plan and manage our fisheries resources in the manner which would be sustainable.

Another comment we would like to make is about the importance of monitoring, surveillance and control of our resources. Although this has been mentioned in the Cancún Declaration, I find it better to stress this point again. We know that this exercise is capital intensive and no country within the developing countries can afford to do this exercise without donor assistance.

Therefore, may I suggest that efforts be made to merge our resources and forces at a regional and sub-regional level to afford proper monitoring, surveillance and control exercises. We, therefore, kindly request FAO to consider this option and, if needs be to design a system which would be more effective in developing and strengthening monitoring, surveillance and control. As you know, Mr Chairman, we have a problem of poachers in our waters. They really benefit from our resources.

Another point which needs to be considered is getting the necessary advice and support on the issue of Joint Venture Cooperation, as well as assistance in the drafting of fair contracts with nations which need to have access to our fisheries resources. This would not only improve the economic situation, but would also improve the technical and social aspects of our people.

Lastly, I should like to stress and emphasize the important role of regional and sub-regional fisheries bodies and the need to strengthen their function in high seas fisheries management, and to enhance cooperation and coordination between such bodies. We also think it is important to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to participate in high seas fishing.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, firstly may I thank you for your very interesting introductory remarks, and also the detailed introduction made by the Assistant Director-General.

Modern fisheries have changed so drastically during the past few decades that the traditional procedures and techniques of management are no longer valid. Although the improved technologies for exploitation of the resources are developing at a rapid pace, the growing demand of the ever-increasing human population and degradation of the environment due to man-induced stresses have frustrated all attempts to maintain the resources at the optimum level of productivity. A major shift in the policy issues and management approaches is therefore imperative.

The reshaping of the global system embodied in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea has been the most important event in recent years in the field of fisheries. The new region of the ocean has cast new responsibilities on the coastal states. They have not only to strive for rational and optimum exploitation of the fishery resources within their jurisdiction, but also to ensure that adequate measures are taken to conserve it.

The declining growth rate in marine fish landings coupled with the rising human population is widening the gap between supply and demand of fish, still the most important source of animal protein for the teeming millions of the world. According to an estimate, the gap between supply and demand will be of the order of 20 million tons by the turn of the century. This is a challenge which has to be faced with concerted efforts on a global basis.

The process of urbanization has seriously threatened the age-long equilibrium of the coastal environment and created massive pollution, thus impairing the ecosystem. While we must look for a more rational exploitation, the paramount need is to conserve the aquatic habitat, and this must be the guiding factor in the world fishing policy.

Broadly, our preparations for entering the new century should include sustainable yield, reduction of wastage, raising the nutritional level of the

people of developing countries, making fish rearing and fishing more energy-efficient, developing fish culture in marine and freshwater and last but not least improving the lot of the fishing community, more so of the traditional fishermen. With the momentum in the pace of exploitation, conflicts between artisanal and industrial fishing are bound to crop up. It will need careful handling.

Conservation of the resources and abatement of various sources of contamination are the major issues. Fishing is not man's only activity in the sea. Increasingly, other activities will keep on impacting the fish stocks. Oil and minerals are being searched for on the continental shelf and slope. Estuaries are being used for a variety of industrial and recreational activities. Aquatic environments are being used indiscriminately for disposal of industrial and human waste. Our knowledge to combat such problems is rather primitive. In-depth studies are required to deal with the problems so that fisheries can sustain in such environments through control of sources of pollution.

Conservation of the fish genetic resources is an evolutionary responsibility. Already many species have been declared threatened and endangered. For conservation of fish stocks, the spheres of responsibilities have to be allocated between the scientists, the politicians and the people. To promote development without destruction, environmental sensitivity has to be inculcated in people through education.

Although a variety of regulations governing use of aquatic resources are promulgated, there is considerable difficulty in monitoring subsequent activities of the user groups so as to ensure adherence to regulations. The application of gear or effort restrictions is extremely difficult in developing countries like Bangladesh where fishing is the main source of livelihood of more than a million fishermen. Total restriction on many of the destructive gears cannot be carried out effectively without an appropriate rehabilitation programme of those fisher-folk against whom such measures are proposed.

International enforcement of regulations is even more difficult. Coastal fishermen frequently complain about foreign vessels operating off their coasts inconsistent with conservation principles. Even when bilateral or multilateral agreements can be made between the concerned parties, more often than not there is no method to monitor and ensure that agreements are being honoured. The existing system is not working and important issues need to be resolved. There is a need to establish a legal order for managing man's activities on the sea so as to create a more harmonious relationship among the users of the resources.

Bangladesh's traditional fishing sector is its main strength. Fishing effort is a very low-cost one since a major share of the catch comes without using any fuel.

The main cost of the operation is human labour. Therefore, the new approach has to take into consideration maximum social and economic benefits to the resources users from producers to consumers, besides the maintenance of the resources at an economic level of productivity. The new approach has to address the biological, environmental and socio-economic problems with close cooperation and coordination on a global basis.

On the whole an integrated multidisciplinary approach is required to deal with the complex problems so that fisheries can survive in harmony with other uses of the aquatic resources and so that harvests are optimized within safe biological and economic limits. Today's foundations would help posterity to face the challenges of their times boldly.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** C'est la première intervention du Maroc au cours des travaux de cette session, sur un sujet d'importance qui appelle de la part des membres du Conseil sinon une décision, du moins des orientations très précises à l'endroit du Secrétariat de la FAO. A cette occasion, j'aimerais vous dire, Monsieur le Président, combien nous nous réjouissons de vous voir présider nos travaux et j'aimerais, par la même occasion, féliciter les membres du bureau pour leur élection.

Nous avons écouté l'introduction faite par M. Krone des deux sujets présentés et nous le remercions. Le Maroc a pris une part active à la Conférence internationale sur la pêche responsable, qui s'est tenue à Cancún au Mexique, du 6 au 8 mai 1992, et nous partageons pleinement la déclaration qui en a découlé. Pour notre part, nous ferons tout ce qui est dans nos possibilités pour donner un terrain d'application aux principales décisions qui ont été prises au cours de cette réunion. Cette conférence a constitué une nouvelle étape dans la voie de la mise en place des mesures et moyens adéquats pour la préservation des ressources halieutiques, notamment l'élaboration d'un Code international de conduite pour une pêche responsable. Cette conférence a été le fruit d'une réflexion à l'échelon mondial sur les actions à entreprendre en vue d'assurer l'aménagement et le développement durables des pêcheries mondiales, engagées sous l'impulsion des recommandations de la Conférence de la FAO sur les pêches qui a eu lieu en 1984.

Le Maroc a pris de nombreuses mesures d'aménagement et de préservation de ses ressources halieutiques en haute mer, et a acquis une expérience appréciable dans ce domaine. Il est entièrement disposé à partager son modeste capital d'expérience et à participer, comme ce fut le cas à Cancún, à tous travaux sur cette importante question en vue d'aller de l'avant dans la voie de l'instauration d'un Code international de conduite pour une pêche véritablement responsable.

A cet effet, nous soutenons le Directeur général de la FAO dans la mise en place de ce Code de conduite et nous invitons le Conseil à lui donner tous les moyens nécessaires pour s'acquitter convenablement de cette tâche.

Nous appuyons l'inclusion, dans le Programme de travail et budget et dans le Plan à moyen terme de 1994-1999 de la FAO, des arrangements qui pourront être pris pour la préparation d'un projet de Code international de conduite pour une pêche responsable en collaboration, bien entendu, avec les organisations internationales compétentes.

Le Maroc souhaite également la contribution des Etats intéressés. Les consultations techniques, par exemple, telles que celles organisées par la FAO sur la pêche en haute mer, sont à notre avis des initiatives enrichissantes.

S'agissant du régime de la pêche en haute mer, il convient de souligner que cela fait actuellement l'objet d'une réflexion engagée par la Communauté internationale et concerne des aspects divers de la recherche scientifique, des statistiques, de l'aménagement, des institutions, du régime juridique de

la pêche, ainsi que de la participation des pays en voie de développement à l'exploitation des ressources biologiques de la haute mer.

La dernière consultation technique organisée en septembre par la FAO à ce sujet a permis de faire avancer le débat sur l'ensemble de ces questions et de recueillir davantage d'informations techniques, scientifiques et juridiques concernant cette question.

Le Maroc, pays en voie de développement, possède un secteur des pêches maritimes en pleine expansion. Soucieux de la préservation des ressources halieutiques, aussi bien à l'intérieur de sa zone exclusive qu'en haute mer, il entend contribuer de manière constructive pour la réussite de cette réflexion afin d'aboutir à des solutions adéquates et conciliantes entre les intérêts en présence.

S'agissant du document CL 102/20, et précisément du paragraphe 8 et des cinq questions sur lesquelles le Secrétariat attire l'attention des membres du Conseil, j'aimerais vous dire que s'agissant de la recommandation selon laquelle la FAO devrait entreprendre la préparation d'un Code international de conduite, nous nous sommes déjà exprimés à ce sujet et nous appuyons pleinement cette recommandation.

S'agissant de la question importante du changement de pavillon des navires pêchant en haute mer, nous avons écouté la proposition qui nous a été faite ce matin qu'une réunion d'experts se tiendrait, au début de 1993, pour se pencher sur cette question et être en mesure de faire un rapport conséquent à la prochaine session du COFI qui se tiendra en mars. Nous appuyons donc cette proposition.

Concernant le petit alinéa 4 relatif au rôle important des organismes régionaux et sous-régionaux, nous souscrivons également à cette recommandation et nous considérons que pour le dernier alinéa il y a lieu d'inviter les pays développés à considérer les aspirations des pays en développement qui le souhaitent en vue de participer à l'exploitation des ressources biologiques de la haute mer et à leur fournir toute l'assistance requise.

S'agissant du premier alinéa, la première question qui a été soulevée dans ce paragraphe 8, nous avons écouté la déclaration du délégué de la Suède, qui a été reprise par notre collègue du Mexique, et nous pensons que pour cette question très importante, la décision prise par le Conseil a été très pertinente. Elle a d'ailleurs été approuvée par la Conférence et nous estimons que la FAO doit continuer à suivre de très près cette question, en collaboration directe bien sûr, surtout pour les questions juridiques, avec la direction compétente des Nations Unies, mais nous pensons néanmoins qu'il ne faudrait pas déplacer les débats qui intéressent notre Organisation dans d'autres enceintes, même si elles ont un caractère suprême. Nous sommes de l'avis qu'il faudrait agir de manière très prudente pour cette question et éviter que les Membres du Conseil soient amenés à revenir trop rapidement sur la décision prise à la 99ème session.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant du Maroc des réponses très claires qu'il a données aux différentes questions qui ont été posées. Il a mentionné, à un moment donné, que le Conseil devait donner des orientations. Le Conseil en l'espèce doit donner plus que des orientations. Il est appelé à prendre un certain nombre de décisions, il faut être clair sur ce point. Votre avis est

demandé, et sur la base des avis donnés par les différents membres du Conseil, le Conseil a à prendre un certain nombre de décisions qui seront transmises aux instances compétentes.

**Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRUE (Cuba):** La delegación de Cuba agradece a la Secretaría la oportunidad de discutir en este 102 período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO lo referente a las Novedades en el sector de la pesca internacional: Pesca responsable. Al mismo tiempo agradecemos las amplias y competentes introducciones brindadas por usted y el Sr. Krone a este Consejo.

Nuestro país que ha ratificado la Convención sobre el Derecho del Mar desde sus inicios, que ha aprobado y firmado la Declaración de Cancún en la pasada Conferencia Internacional de Pesca Responsable, es acreedor de una sostenida postura que se ha manifestado en los organismos internacionales donde hemos participado. Abogamos por el uso de opciones de administración pesqueras que respondan por una parte a los intereses socioeconómicos de una pesquería determinada y por otra que tengan en cuenta la adecuada protección de las poblaciones de peces.

La limitación actual de nuestras zonas de operaciones, lejos de la isla por situaciones económicas que enfrentamos en el presente, sobre todo de falta de combustible, no puede ser óbice para no pensar en las posibilidades de alimento que brinda la pesca en alta mar y esta alternativa debe mantenerse presente para países en desarrollo que ven el mar como fuente de proteínas o de ampliación de su comercio.

Deseamos aprovechar la ocasión para expresar nuestro reconocimiento al Gobierno de México por la tan importante iniciativa llevada a cabo el pasado mes de mayo del presente año, es decir, la materialización y éxito de la Conferencia Internacional de Pesca Responsable, a la que nuestro Ministro de la Industria Pesquera asistió, confiriéndosele a la misma toda la atención que requirió y ameritó. De igual forma, permítaseme extender este reconocimiento a la FAO por la encomiable labor desarrollada de manera conjunta para el logro del éxito de esta Conferencia.

Cuba apoya en su totalidad la Declaración de Cancún, emanada de esta importante Conferencia Internacional de Pesca Responsable y por tanto considera su responsabilidad como Estado, de cumplir lo que ella declara y acuerda. Es por ello, que vimos con beneplácito el documento "Prácticas pesqueras responsables en alta mar", presentado en la pasada Consulta de Expertos sobre la Pesca en Alta Mar el pasado mes de septiembre en la sede de la FAO, y lo consideramos como una primera aproximación para la elaboración de un Código Internacional de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, que sentará las bases para la aceptación a una norma común relativa a las buenas prácticas de pesca en alta mar.

De igual forma vemos de gran utilidad la recomendación de Cancún de proponer a las Naciones Unidas que la próxima década sea declarada como el Decenio de la Pesca Responsable.

Aprovechamos el uso de la palabra para apoyar lo planteado por las distinguidas delegaciones de Suecia y México de que estos asuntos deben tener a la FAO como marco ideal donde se desarrollen estas futuras deliberaciones.

Creemos oportuno manifestar nuestra preocupación referente a que, aunque la Convención del Derecho del Mar reconoce la libertad para todos los Estados de pescar en alta mar (artículo 87) y las necesidades especiales de los Estados en desarrollo (artículo 119), las posibilidades de que dichos países aprovechen los recursos que brinda la pesca en alta mar, basados en la competencia con estados desarrollados, es prácticamente imposible.

Se deben crear mecanismos de acceso que tengan en cuenta los derechos de los operadores actuales y las aspiraciones y necesidades de los países en vías de desarrollo que desean participar en la explotación de los recursos pesqueros en alta mar.

Asimismo opinamos que la cooperación internacional para la pesca en alta mar debe manifestarse con un mayor apoyo financiero para inversiones en países en desarrollo, las cuales deben canalizarse por organismos internacionales y regionales existentes, mecanismos de asociación y otras formas de cooperación, con el fin de mejorar y ampliar la actividad pesquera de los países en desarrollo, y esto será congruente con una actividad de pesca responsable, que va desde la captura hasta el procesamiento de los productos destinados al consumo local o al comercio internacional, si fuera posible.

Finalmente, nuestra delegación aboga y apoya al mismo tiempo, para que este Consejo se pronuncie a favor de que el Director General incluya en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y en el Plan a Plazo Medio de 1994 a 1999, las disposiciones necesarias con vistas a la preparación de un proyecto de Código Internacional de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, en consulta con otras organizaciones internacionales pertinentes y teniéndose en cuenta la Declaración de Cancún y el capítulo 17 del Programa 21, aprobado por la reciente Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas, sobre el Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo.

**Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Je voudrais tout d'abord vous remercier, Monsieur le Président, pour nous avoir présenté les deux documents concernant les faits nouveaux survenus récemment dans le domaine des pêches internationales. Vous avez précédé en cela M. Krone, responsable de cette question, et les informations que vous avez présentées sont importantes et utiles. Je remercie également M. Krone pour les éclaircissements supplémentaires qu'il a présentés sur ce sujet.

Je ne suis pas un expert dans le domaine des pêches mais j'ai eu l'occasion, au cours des réunions du Comité financier où j'ai l'honneur de représenter le Liban, et au cours des réunions du Conseil, d'appuyer toutes les questions susceptibles de contribuer au développement des pêches, convaincu de l'importance des pêches pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde dont nous avons le plus pressant besoin pour répondre aux besoins alimentaires sans cesse croissants. M. Lindquist, ex Sous-Directeur général du département des pêches et actuellement représentant de la Suède s'en souvient certainement.

Le Liban appuie la demande faite à l'Organisation pour procéder, en collaboration avec d'autres organisations internationales compétentes, à la préparation d'un Code international de conduite pour une pêche responsable. Nous pensons qu'il y a la nécessité pour la FAO de s'intéresser au problème du changement de pavillon de navires pêchant en haute mer en tant que moyen d'éviter de se conformer aux mesures de conservation et d'aménagement, et aux



pratiques commerciales acceptables. Nous appuyons le rôle important des organismes régionaux et sous-régionaux s'occupant des pêches et la nécessité de renforcer leurs fonctions en matière d'aménagement des pêcheries de haute mer, et d'améliorer la coopération et la coordination entre ces organismes. Nous appuyons également toutes les autres propositions contenues dans ces deux documents.

**Tang ZHENGPING (China) (Original language Chinese):** First of all I would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of documents CL 102/19 and CL 102/20. I would also like to thank you and also Mr Krone for the introductory statements to these two documents.

The Chinese delegation would like to voice its agreement with the recommendations that have to do with responsible fishing on the high seas. We are of the opinion, Sir, that with the rapid development of fishing - maritime fishing and high seas fishing - the protection of maritime fishery resources and the sustainable development of fishery production has now become one of the great concerns for the international community; hence, as we see it, it is necessary to adopt efficient and effective measures of a national and international nature in order to reinforce and strengthen the management of maritime fishing and high seas fishing, and in an appropriate manner continue the exploitation and utilization of fishery resources, but to do so with the necessary protection of the aforementioned resources so that it would be possible to satisfy the needs of future generations or fish supply. Those needs, as we know, will be constantly on the increase.

On the other hand, we would like to underline the fact that the preparation of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and the establishment of a legal regime for high seas fishing is something which should be done on the basis of studies, surveys and scientific analyses, and within the framework of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea 1982.

The interests and the responsibilities of coastal states and those states which do dedicate their efforts to fishing have to be taken into consideration. It would also be necessary to reinforce and strengthen technical training and technical transfer in favour of developing countries as a way to bolster their maritime fishing capabilities and to guarantee their participation on an equal standing in the rational exploitation of fishery resources.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, we are of the opinion that in undertaking activities in those fields FAO should reinforce and strengthen cooperation with the other institutions within the UN system, and also it would be necessary to enhance the technical advantages of FAO in the field of fisheries so that it can make its most useful contribution to discussions and also avoid overlapping or dual employment as regards work being done in other institutions. This would be a way of ensuring an increase in the effectiveness of the work being done.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant de la Chine de sa très intéressante intervention. Je lui sais gré de la clarté de son exposé.

**Srta. Hilda María SANTIESTEBAN MONTERO (Costa Rica):** Por ser la primera vez que hacemos uso de la palabra permítame, Sr. Presidente, expresar nuestra

complacencia por verlo presidir este período de sesiones del Consejo y nuestro agradecimiento al Dr. Krone por la excelente presentación de este tema.

Los países del istmo centroamericano, y los menciono alfabéticamente: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua y Panamá, participamos muy activamente en la Conferencia Internacional de Pesca Responsable, celebrada en Cancún, México, del 6 al 8 de mayo del presente año.

En esta importante Conferencia nuestros países dieron su pleno apoyo a la Declaración de Cancún. En nombre de dichos países la delegación de Costa Rica desea en esta oportunidad reiterar a la FAO la solicitud contenida en dicha Declaración para que nuestra Organización elabore, en consulta con las organizaciones internacionales pertinentes, un Código Internacional de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable.

Consideramos indispensable que la FAO realice las concertaciones necesarias para que este Código de Conducta sea una realidad que proporcione un conjunto de reglas convenidas que permitan armonizar los objetivos de explotar racionalmente los recursos pesqueros, tanto en las aguas de jurisdicción nacional como en las de alta mar; que permita que las prácticas de captura sean armónicas con el ambiente; que proporcione reglas en el concepto de armonía para evitar deformaciones que alteren las relaciones de comercio internacional y que las prácticas comerciales permitan a todos los países beneficiarse de presentaciones adecuadas que valoricen los productos y den mayores ganancias a todos, permitiendo al mismo tiempo precios accesibles a la población, de tal manera que la contribución del pescado a la nutrición sea una realidad efectiva.

Nuestros países, Sr. Presidente, desean reiterar asimismo que el foro más adecuado para tratar los asuntos relacionados con la pesca es la FAO, por lo que esperamos que a través del Comité de Pesca, auxiliados por Consultas de Expertos y tomando los elementos pertinentes de los foros de otros organismos, se llegue a una concertación que ratificando los logros de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar (CONVEMAR), aporte los nuevos elementos que requiere la situación actual plasmándolos en el citado Código de Conducta.

**Akira NIWA (Japan):** First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman for his introduction and to Dr Krone for his detailed explanation.

With regard responsible fishing and the regime of high seas fishing, as one of the largest fishing countries and the largest fish importing country, Japan has a keen interest in these matters and attended both of the meetings, the Conference on Responsible Fishing in Cancún and the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing in Rome.

We made a lot of comments and distributed documents which explained our position at these meetings. We will not do that again.

Because fishing is a harvesting activity targeted at the resources which do not belong to anybody, fishing could easily wind up as excessively competitive. This excessive competition could cause extreme overutilization of limited marine resources. Some of these resources are nearing the limits for utilization. The problem is how to use these resources most wisely to avoid an adverse situation. It is vital to formulate a rational code of

conduct on responsible fishing practices. From this point of view Japan hopes the Council will adopt the recommendation that FAO initiate the preparation of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing which can apply to all fisheries. We believe it should apply to all states, including the developing countries.

On the issue of the re-flagging of high seas fishing vessels, Japan recognizes the programme and fully agrees with the result of the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing. Japan wishes FAO to take immediate action, as described in document CL 102/20 which is before us.

Japan also hopes that the Council will provide COFI with the necessary mandate.

Lastly, we understand that FAO is charged with the leadership role of encouraging the sound development of fisheries in the world, as well as extending assistance to developing countries. In recent years, however, FAO's leadership in the development of world fisheries has in some cases been allowed to be overtaken by other bodies, for example, the UN General Assembly and CIDIE. These bodies do not have specialist fisheries knowledge. Therefore, the decisions on fisheries suffer from the lack of a consultative process amongst those concerned and knowledgeable members. Instead, important decisions are taken on the basis of a majority.

Japan gives high marks to FAO for its strategy on fisheries management development, its contribution to the UN expert meeting on high seas fisheries in June last year, to its attendance at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June of this year, to its efforts to convene the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing and its contribution to the Cancún meeting.

We are hopeful about the outcome of FAO's current and future initiative on responsible fishing.

**Bong-Hwan CHO (Korea, Republic of):** On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank the Secretariat which has prepared the informative document and also thank Mr Krone who clearly explained the recent developments in the international fisheries sector, Responsible Fishing and High Seas Fishing.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea had the chance to participate and share the views with other delegations in the Cancún meeting and the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing. I expect the technical and scientific matters will be again fully discussed in the coming Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Therefore, I would like to make several remarks on the specific issues on paragraph 8 of the document CL 102/20.

(1) FAO-sponsored intergovernmental consultations

Firstly, my delegation has no difficulties in agreeing with the idea that the various issues, including the straddling and highly-migratory species issue, can be examined in the UN intergovernmental conference which will be convened next year.

Secondly, my delegation emphasizes that coastal countries and high seas fishing countries should cooperate to obtain the best scientific information on stock situation and fishing impact, especially on the straddling stocks and highly migratory species, through monitoring systems such as the scientific observer scheme.

Based on scientific information, the proper management and conservation measures can be maintained in compliance with the rules of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. I would like to express deep concern that the controlling of marine resources too strictly or arbitrarily for the reason of environmental protection can have serious effects on the sustainable development of world fisheries. Conservation measures for high seas fisheries should be based on the generally acceptable regime of the international legal framework.

(2) Preparation of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing

We believe that the rational exploitation and conservation of marine resources should be maintained in harmony with the environment and conservation of a healthy marine ecosystem.

In this regard we fully support one of the conclusions of the technical consultations that, in consultation with other international organizations, FAO should prepare an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing to cover all fisheries sectors.

My delegation would be grateful, if possible, to be informed about the time schedule and procedural matters for the preparation of an International Code of Conduct under the FAO's initiative.

We believe that the Code of Conduct should be dealt with step-by-step within a time-frame. The strict and rapid implementation, the application of some measures requiring the advanced technology and new equipment would give serious difficulties to developing fishing countries. Therefore, full consideration on the related matters should be kept in preparing the Code of Conduct.

(3) Issue of Reflagging of High Seas Fishing Vessels

My delegation agrees with the point that the reflagging issue needs urgent attention and that the states should make efforts to detail the reflagging for the proper conservation and management measures. On the other hand, my delegation believes that the effective way to discourage or prevent the reflagging in the present situation is to keep the precise implementation of guidelines and the duties of the flag state.

In the UN convention of the Law of the Sea, there is a provision which clearly states the duties of the flag state.

The ascription of nationality is one of the most important means to maintain public order at sea. The nationality of a vessel indicates to which rights and obligations the ships are subjected, as well as which country is to exercise the national jurisdiction over the vessel.

In this regard, in the technical consultation the Korean delegation clearly pointed out that we should pay basic attention to the resolution adopted by

the UNCTAD's meeting on shipping in 1981 which aims at the enhancement of the accountability of the flag state for all shipping operations.

I would like to add one more point on nationals. Usually a country's fishing operations are not associated with the ministry which is responsible for the crew. This actually results in a difficulty in controlling prohibited crews for fishery purposes.

We agree that the reflagging issue should be considered, in collaboration with the other international agencies concerned, with the full reflection of the above-mentioned points.

(4) Participation of developing countries

The problems for the developing countries in participating in high seas fishing are: the low level of technologies and capital, the burden of operational costs, marketing and so on. We welcome every effort for the enhancement of joint-venture activities, technology transfer and any other cooperative actions in the high seas fishing areas. At the same time, my delegation points out that the development of high seas fishing capabilities in developing countries could be enforced parallel with the development of industrial fishing activities within the exclusive economic zones.

In this regard, I also emphasize the close cooperation between coastal states and fishing states including EEZs should be kept for the rational exploitation and conservation of living marine resources.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I should like to add my thanks to those who have preceded me concerning the preparation of these documents before us and their introduction.

Australia sees FAO as playing a vital role in encouraging higher standards of fisheries management throughout the world, both within exclusive economic zones and on the high seas. Australia supports the call for FAO to draft an International Code of Practice for Responsible Fishing, taking into account the Declaration of Cancún and in consultation with appropriate international organizations. FAO, through its Committee on Fisheries, is the most appropriate body for this task as its membership comprises coastal states and distant water fishing nations, developed and developing countries, as well as producer and consumer interests.

As an active member of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, Australia has a particular interest in the development of such a code. The smaller island nations depend heavily on sustainable management of fisheries resources of the South Pacific region, both in terms of nutrition and economic prosperity. In both the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Australia is keen to support developments which would set minimum international standards for conduct of fishing operations, particularly on the high seas.

The FAO Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing held in Rome in September 1992 provided a forum for members to share their views on high seas fishing issues at a time when there is considerable international debate. However, the report of the Consultation represents a somewhat uneasy compilation of disparate views on a range of important issues in relation to high seas fishing. There are a number of areas in the report on which Australia has

concerns. These concerns were noted at the conclusion of the consultation and, I understand, were shared by a number of delegations. Australia would therefore not support Council endorsing the report of the Technical Consultation. We would prefer to see Council note the report.

Obviously the high seas issue is one where considerable further work is required. On the question of high seas fishing, Australia supports strongly the current international initiatives to elucidate further the obligations of states in relation to high seas fishing and to establish a framework for the effective implementation of those obligations. Australia recognizes the severe problems of stock depletion which compel coastal states to seek urgent action on the high seas issue, particularly in relation to straddling stocks. There is no doubt that the critical situations facing a number of the world's major fisheries are being exacerbated by the lack of commitment by some countries to proper control of the high seas fishing operations by their vessels and nationals.

There is one particular area of the report which Australia strongly supports: that is, the call from the Technical Consultation to address as a matter of urgency the problem of vessels reflagging to avoid legitimate management controls on the high seas. In this regard we fully support the proposal by the United States.

Australia is extremely concerned that the activities of fishing vessels flying flags of convenience are already confounding conservation and management measures agreed for a number of the world's valuable fisheries. The practice is being used to avoid legitimate management controls. Those countries which are members of international fishery management regimes and whose nationals and vessels are active in relevant fisheries must be prepared to take steps to discourage activities which undermine those regimes. Those countries accepting new registrations should be encouraged to take a greater interest in and responsibility for the activities of vessels operating under their flag. In many cases, reflagged vessels do not provide even basic catch and effort data to the government of their country of registration, let alone to other countries with an interest in the fishery.

In our own region the recovery of severely depleted southern bluefin tuna stocks may be jeopardized by unregulated operations of vessels flagged in countries which take no interest in either the proper management of the southern bluefin tuna or the implementation of effective measures to control the operations of their fleets. Australia, Japan and New Zealand have for a number of years adopted stringent, if informal, conservation measures for southern bluefin tuna. We are close to formalizing that arrangement into an international convention for the conservation of southern bluefin tuna but are concerned that one of the major threats to the integrity of this arrangement and the recovery of the stock may be fishing by tuna longline vessels reflagged to operate outside the framework established by the convention.

Our colleague from New Zealand, a close neighbour in the Southwest Pacific region, will be among those Observers who will be making an intervention at the conclusion of the comments made by members of the Council. I should like to put on record that we fully support the intervention that New Zealand will be making. They have discussed it with us prior to this meeting.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant de l'Australie d'appuyer une intervention qui n'a pas encore été faite. J'ai évoqué la lettre que j'avais reçue du représentant permanent de la Nouvelle Zélande; ce pays a été inscrit en tant qu'observateur.

Vous permettrez certainement à votre Président de faire une remarque en ce qui concerne le point qui a été soulevé, à savoir d'appuyer une consultation technique. Il n'appartient pas au Conseil de donner son appui à une consultation technique qui a à rédiger un rapport, avec des points de vue techniques, rapport qui ne sera pas soumis au Conseil. Nous n'avons donc pas à en discuter. Ce rapport est transmis à l'instance responsable, c'est-à-dire le Comité des pêches. Le Comité des pêches, en application de l'article XXX du Règlement général, est un comité qui en réfère au Conseil. Donc, nous avons bien stipulé que le Comité des pêches se réunirait en mars 1993 et en référerait au Conseil, à sa session de juin 1993.

**Nusyirwan ZEN (Indonesia):** The Indonesian delegation welcomes the initiative to be taken by the Director-General to make arrangements for the preparation of a draft document of an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. We realize that appropriate management of marine water resources is a fundamental requisite not only to create a sustainable supply of fish as a valuable source of nutrition for the people but also to maintain biodiversity of the sea. We also realize that since 1982, when the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea set out the rights and responsibilities of states with respect to the utilization of the living resources in their EEZs and made provisions for the management of high seas living resources, a lot of development has taken place in the expansion of high sea fisheries. This development requires new global arrangements on the responsibility of conduct in fishing operations to ensure sustainable productivity of the sea.

As we understand, the Declaration of Cancún in May 1992 contains basically the rationale for responsible fishing and obligations expected from every coastal state. The Declaration was further brought to the attention of UNCED in June 1992.

Indonesia has attached high priority to practising sound marine resource management since 1972, as indicated by the issuance of Indonesian sea law and regulations on the conduct of responsible fishing. The Indonesian delegation wishes, therefore, to reiterate their support on the arrangement made to prepare a draft regarding an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing by taking into account the Declaration of Cancún 1992 and results of UNCED 1992.

With regard to the Report of the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing, the Indonesian delegation welcomes the outcome of this meeting. Recommendations on the basic concept of high seas fishing and other aspects would be very useful for negotiating and formulating codes of conduct and rules and regulations for sustainable high seas fishery management.

On the strengthening of sub-regional cooperation and coordination in Southeast Asia, ASEAN member countries have been cooperating closely through the Coordinating Group on Fisheries and the establishment of an ASEAN Fisheries Federation which meet regularly and develop joint programmes and activities.

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** The FAO Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing of September last addressed a number of important issues related to fisheries operations conducted on the high seas. Of these, two in particular are of great interest and importance to Canada. These two are a Code of Conduct on fishing and the issue of reflagging.

On the question of a Code of Conduct, we can say that Canada favours the development of a Code of Conduct on fishing. However, we are firmly of the view that a separate Code of Conduct for high seas fishing is called for to reflect the distinct issues and concerns related to high seas fishery. Canada took this position at the September Consultation, this position being supported by many delegations at that meeting.

In terms of content of the proposed Codes of Conduct, Canada holds firmly that they must be technical in nature so as not to interfere with the United Nations Conference on High Seas Fishing which will commence in 1993 and deal with policy issues.

On the issue of reflagging by owners in an effort to avoid conservation measures of regional fisheries organizations, this is a major concern for Canada, as illustrated by a document co-sponsored by Canada and 39 other countries in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. At the Rome Technical Consultation, Canada supported a prompt resolution of this issue. Given the consensus at the Rome Technical Consultation on the urgency of achieving an agreement on reflagging, Canada strongly supports the establishment of a core group of experts comprised of FAO members before the COFI Meeting in March 1993 to work on such an agreement, to be concluded, if possible, by mid-1993, thereby contributing to the work of the UN conference on high seas fishing problems relating to straddling stocks and highly migratory species.

We should also like to address the issue of the role which FAO should play in the intergovernmental conference currently being discussed in the UN General Assembly. We would recall, as does the Secretariat paper, that we have a mandate agreed unanimously at UNCED to convene an intergovernmental conference under UN auspices.

The proposal advanced by the Swedish delegation effectively asks that the FAO Council preempt a debate currently under way in another UN body designated unanimously for this purpose. We are of the view that it is inappropriate for the FAO Council to select, and we believe that the continuing explicit contribution of the FAO to the intergovernmental conference must await the conclusion of the ongoing debate in New York.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais quand même signaler que la FAO a une large expérience dans le domaine des codes de conduite, des accords d'entente internationaux et autres, dans d'autres secteurs de l'agriculture au sens large. C'est pourquoi les considérations que vous avez émises seront certainement prises en compte.

**O TOUGAARD (EEC):** I should like to make a declaration on behalf on the European Community. First of all, as previous speakers, I should like to congratulate the Secretariat on the two papers they have produced on the two



very important issues, the regime of high seas fishing and responsible fishing. I shall make my comments on these two papers in a logical order.

First of all, with regard to responsible fishing, the European Community entirely agrees with the principle that fishing, both on the high seas and within economic zones, must be carried out in a responsible way in accordance with the provisions of UNCLOS, as was underlined in the Cancún Declaration.

In this context, I should like to mention that the European Community considers that improving the selectivity of fishing gear is one of the fundamental pillars in regard to responsible fishing. The common fisheries policies contained the necessary elements in this respect.

The Community has always stated that the management of shared resources, such as straddling and highly migratory species, must be done as provided for in UNCLOS in the framework of international cooperation, within international commissions and with the participation of the contracting parties, as well as those states whose fleets operate in the region covered by the international organizations.

In this respect, the Community, as has been said by many other speakers, is extremely worried by the activities of fleets operating under flags of convenience or the flag of non-contracting parties in the area of certain fisheries commissions, particularly in NAFO and ICCAT. The non-respect of rules and agreements, as well as the non-communication of basic scientific data, can cause especially difficult problems for the good management of the resources concerned. The control of such fishing should also be a point of primary importance. In this regard, the application of new technology should allow us to make important progress in this area.

The drawing up of a Code of Conduct, discussed recently during a technical consultation here in Rome on high seas fisheries, and indeed called for in the Cancún Declaration, should be the subject in an appropriate forum of an international cooperation in order to avoid unilateral approaches.

In this regard, the European Community feels that the technical aspects in the drawing up of such a Code should be included in FAO's work programme which is its principal task. We are fully prepared to cooperate in the development of this Code.

As to the possible content of such a Code, my delegation would at this stage like to highlight a few key elements which should be addressed. First of all, we would like to emphasize that the Code can only be elaborated whilst scrupulously respecting the relevant provisions of the Law of the Sea. As a matter of fact, this Convention is the fruit of long negotiations and establishes a delicate equilibrium between contractory interests. It contains as a principle the cooperation between the fisheries nations and the coastal states in the framework of existing or future regional fisheries organizations for the conservation of the resources beyond the fishing zones. Therefore, we cannot accept any form of action which seeks to change the limits of jurisdiction as set out in the Convention.

Secondly with regard to responsible fishing as referred to recently in the Cancún Declaration - that is durable fishing in coexistence with the environment - we want to emphasize here that this concept does not mean the end of all commercial fishing activities.

Thirdly, the Code of Conduct should be applicable everywhere. This approach is in accordance with the provisions of UNCLOS which sets the rights and obligations of both the coastal states and those who fish on the high seas.

Fourthly, responsible fishing refers to all fishery activities whether inside or outside the EEZ.

Fifth, it is necessary to find a satisfactory solution to the problem resulting from the flags of convenience. In this respect, we agree that this element of the Code should be treated as a matter of priority.

More specifically with regard to the paper and the topic of the Regime of the High Seas Fishing, I just wish to reiterate, as I have said already, that the sound management of resources applies, of course, both within and without the fishing zones. The Community considers that management on the high seas, and in particular straddling stocks, would be based on the established guidelines and within the framework of international cooperation, and whenever possible on the basis of the best scientific information available.

The Cancún Declaration, and more recently the UNCED Declaration and the FAO Technological Consultation on High Seas Fishing, all address this subject matter of responsible and sustainable fishing practices, although in different ways and with different coverage. As I said in regard to the issue of responsible fishing, discussion on this cannot be limited to fishing on the high seas, but must also cover fisheries behaviour within the coastal states fishing zone. This is, of course, of particular importance and relevance in regard to straddling stocks, for which a coherent and rational management approach must be agreed within multilateral arrangements. We feel that regional fisheries organizations have a particular role to play in this regard as stipulated in UNCLOS.

The Community can in general accept the conclusions of the Technical Consultation as described under point 6 in document CL 102/20. However, we wish to underline that with regard to the legal issues which were not debated during the Technical Consultation, and which are referred to under point 6 (X), the Community reserves its position on the document presented by DOALOS.

With regard to the proposal to the Council mentioned under point 8 of the said document, on the various tasks to be undertaken, the Community can also, in general, support the suggestion that FAO takes the necessary initiatives in this regard. However we want to underline that we feel that FAO's principal role is to engage in the technical work.

More particularly in this respect, with regard to the FAO-sponsored intergovernmental consultation programmed for 1993, the Community shares the view that, due to the proposed United Nations Intergovernmental Conference on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Species, it now appears that the 1993 intergovernmental consultation is not necessary.

The Community, however, sees that the ongoing technical work within this organization may be useful in view of the preparation of the United Nations intergovernmental conference.

With regard to the issue of reflagging of high seas fishing vessels, which has been dealt with in this paper, we wish to reiterate our position as expressed under the previous point, that responsible fishing is an integrated part of the Code of Conduct as far as the Community is concerned.

The Community wishes to recall that technical consultation on high seas fishing recommends that the FAO Committee on Fisheries could consider means through which an international agreement could be reached to prevent reflagging of fishing vessels for the purpose of non-compliance with conservation and management measures. In this context we have been listening with interest to the suggestions made by the United States. However, we feel that this issue is of such importance that any work in this regard must be addressed in a careful and prudent way. Therefore, we are in support of the view that this matter should be dealt with firstly by COFI.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ce qui concerne les aspects techniques, la procédure, je l'ai signalé en réponse à l'intervention de l'Australie, il est clair qu'un travail technique doit toujours à un moment donné avoir des implications d'ordre politique.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Comenzaremos nuestra intervención dando pleno respaldo a la intervención de la delegación de México en el planteamiento de los documentos que se llevaron a cabo en la Conferencia de Cancún, referentes a la pesca responsable y a la necesidad de crear un Código de Conducta para la pesca, que yo no limitaría a la alta mar, sino a la pesca en general, porque consideramos que debido a las avanzadas tecnologías de las poderosas flotas pesqueras que actúan en alta mar, éstas han llegado a convertir ese ámbito en una especie de tierra de nadie en donde, habida cuenta de las dificultades para llevar a cabo un control de las actividades pesqueras y de las extralimitaciones que ocurren a menudo, se ha hecho muy difícil hacer una regulación, por eso consideramos que el Código de Conducta será indispensable y, como una manera anecdótica de quien ha estudiado hace mucho tiempo, diré que hace muchos años cuando aún era una estudiante de postgrado en Geografía en la Universidad de Boston, me correspondió hacer un paper de pruebas de investigación sobre los derechos del mar y derechos de pesca en aguas territoriales y, curiosamente, tuve entre la documentación quince años del periódico New York Times, en donde anotaba los abusos de las diferentes flotas en esta pesca, no sólo de alta mar, en ese tiempo no se limitaba a la alta mar. Entonces pudimos conocer que algunos de estos países, que poseen especies de grandes porta-aviones para sus flotas, llegaban al extremo de contratar a sus trabajadores por cinco años, de manera que un trabajador de estas flotas pesqueras no podía ir a su país durante cinco años, porque durante cinco años estaba como en una especie de trashumancia por todos los océanos en esta pesca sin control. En aquel tiempo era como una especie de vida primitiva en cuanto a derechos del mar y por esa razón los abusos eran extremos. Nosotros pudimos catalogar estos países, por supuesto no necesito nombrarlos. Sus flotas iban del Pacífico al Atlántico, al Índico, a las aguas territoriales y abusaban de los derechos de los países ribereños y de los países pequeños.

Tiempo después, me tocó ser delegada en la Primera Conferencia de los Derechos del Mar y allí comenzamos esta lucha de control de las aguas territoriales, de derechos de los países ribereños, de clasificación de lo que podríamos llamar pesca de altura - en aquel tiempo se hablaba de pesca de altura, ahora

hablamos de la pesca en alta mar y de los países ribereños - y se crearon las zonas restringidas para los países que deben ser dueños de sus aguas territoriales, pero que siguen siendo víctimas de una técnica, que ojalá podamos ver eliminada definitivamente, cual es la de la pesca de arrastre, que no tiene justificación, por cuanto atenta contra la conservación de los recursos marinos, especialmente de los pequeños peces, que son arrastrados con la pesca grande.

Todas estas cosas son interesantes de conocer aquí para resolver el problema - no estoy de acuerdo con que esto es un problema estrictamente técnico. Cuando nosotros hablamos del cambio de pabellones y cuando hablamos del control de cambio de pabellones, la técnica no hace absolutamente nada. Tenemos que tener un concepto político de esto. También disiento de que en este foro de la FAO no se puede hablar de conceptos políticos. Ya en una oportunidad pedí al Presidente de aquel momento una definición al respecto, porque bajo la disquisición de que solamente podemos hablar de cosas técnicas, hay problemas como éste del cambio de pabellones que es estrictamente político y después pedimos a la FAO que entre un control técnico. Por esa razón, voy a insistir en que estos problemas de la pesca en alta mar no pueden ser solamente técnicos. La tecnología ha ayudado a esas grandes flotas a ser más abusivas de lo que anteriormente eran. Por consiguiente, sí vamos a encomendar a alguien proveer los medios para el control de esos abusos, no podemos esperar que sean simplemente controles técnicos, tendríamos que tener una flota de helicópteros, por ejemplo, con grandes visuales, para poder ver a quién pertenecen las banderas y cuándo las cambian. Eso es imposible, tendríamos que apelar a la responsabilidad de los países que tienen flotas con banderas diferentes y establecer una reglamentación para que la responsabilidad de estos países sea propia y no solamente vigilada.

Por esa razón, creo que es indispensable el código de conducta, pero un Código de Conducta mediante el cual podamos apelar a la responsabilidad de los países, no solamente a la responsabilidad de no abusar con lo ajeno, sino también a la responsabilidad de cuidar los recursos del mar para el futuro, porque estos extremos en la pesca no solamente los defendemos por cuanto responden a un derecho que nos corresponde a los países ribereños, sino también porque responden a la necesidad de conservar un recurso que es de todos y que, por consiguiente, debemos dejar la oportunidad para que sea del disfrute de todos y no solamente que por el poder de su gran tecnología o por el poder económico puedan abusar de los países pequeños. En ese sentido entiendo yo el Código de Conducta y en ese sentido apoyamos y respaldamos la petición de México de establecer este Código de Conducta y sobre todo nos complace mucho que la mayoría de los que nos han antecedido en el derecho de palabra, reconozcan que debe ser la FAO la Organización a la que corresponde la redacción, por lo menos en principio, de este Código de Conducta.

Corea ha planteado interesantes sugerencias con respecto al control y ha mencionado, al mismo tiempo, la incapacidad de los países en desarrollo para lograr ese control. Una razón más para que la FAO, que es como quien dice el representante de los países en desarrollo y de los países del mundo subdesarrollado, pudiera tomar, en cierta manera, la responsabilidad de lograr que esta sugerencia se convierta en una realidad.

A nosotros nos parece sumamente difícil, dada la audacia de los países que tienen la mayor explotación de la pesca, ese control del cambio de pabellones. Solamente se nos ocurre que estableciendo una terminante prohibición de que los países otorguen sus pabellones a otros países, se podría lograr la

responsabilidad de quienes pescan, porque es muy difícil que, por ejemplo Venezuela, que tiene un mar territorial, por su límites, que llega a muchos kilómetros, pudiera vigilar a quienes están pescando en el centro del mar Caribe - porque hasta allí llegan los límites de Venezuela, hasta las islas de las Aves -. Es muy difícil que podamos controlar lo que ya ocurre, que muchas de esas flotas pesqueras abusan de nuestros mares y se meten en ellos sin el control de nadie. Lo mismo ocurriría a los países ribereños del Océano Indico y del Océano Pacífico, que es tan grande.

Por esa razón, pensar o creer que mediante medios técnicos nosotros podamos llegar al control del cambio de pabellones es poco menos que ilusorio. Tiene que ser un autocontrol mediante la responsabilidad política de esos países, porque aquí ya interfiere la razón política y no la razón técnica.

En cuanto al Código de Conducta propiamente dicho, solamente me quedaría apoyar los conceptos que aquí se han establecido con relación al cuidado que deben tener con respecto a las poblaciones bizonales y a las especies migratorias. Este es un campo en donde también nosotros tenemos una dura experiencia, me refiero a Venezuela. Nosotros tenemos ya especies que han sido totalmente agotadas por el abuso de la pesca. Tenemos también algunos casos de migraciones que se desviaron hacia otros lados sin que todavía técnicamente se sepa por qué.

De una manera anecdótica debo decir, por ejemplo, que en Venezuela, en la Isla Margarita, era tal la seguridad que tenían los pescadores de que determinados cardúmenes llegaran un determinado día del año a su puerto, que tenían una celebración religiosa de esa naturaleza. Eso desapareció, porque hace aproximadamente diez años que esa especie no viene más a ese puerto, no viene por esas aguas, y es que esas especies migratorias han sido desviadas hacia otros mundos, no sabemos por qué. Ahí había un punto muy interesante desde el punto de vista de investigación científica: averiguar qué ha pasado. Eso no ocurre con una especie solamente en Venezuela, también ocurre con algunos países ribereños del mar Caribe en otros lados. Por eso, aprovechamos a respaldar aquí la exposición hecha por la delegada de Costa Rica en nombre de los países de América Central, porque son ellos también víctimas de abusos de estas empresas pesqueras, que no respetan el mar territorial, que no respetan los mares ribereños.

No creo que deba extenderme mucho más, porque estos son los puntos esenciales que quería plantear. Sí quiero respaldar la proposición de que sea la FAO la que se encargue de la elaboración de este Código de Conducta, pero, insisto, no creo que esto sea un problema estrictamente técnico y que debamos estar esperando que las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York decidan que aquí la FAO tiene mayor capacidad que ninguna otra Organización para enfrentar y resolver ese problema y por esa razón así lo dejo expresado.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Sra. Embajadora, quisiera decir que los helicópteros ya no son necesarios, en el sentido de que con satélites y con el sistema de teledetección se puede verificar muy bien lo que está pasando sobre el mar.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** My delegation wishes to thank Mr Krone for his fine introduction of these documents, providing us with valuable background information about the issue of responsible fishing. My

delegation is fully aware of the vital contribution of fisheries resources to food security. Thus, my delegation deems it highly important to establish a more efficient fisheries management system which would prevent the excessive fishing of fish stocks and would secure their adequate conservation.

It is also important to review the problem resulting from the high seas fishing vessels reflagging practices. Consequently, my delegation welcomes the Cancún Declaration and will spare no effort in implementing the recommendations therein.

Furthermore, my delegation welcomes the proposal aimed at supporting and promoting developing countries' capabilities with a view to securing their involvement in high seas fishing activities. We also recognize the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation in the field of fisheries.

Further, my delegation welcomes FAO's efforts in preparing the international Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing in cooperation with the relevant international organizations.

By way of conclusion, my delegation wishes to stress the importance of convening an international conference within the UN system to be entrusted with the task of examining the issues related to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory species.

**Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland):** Mr Chairman, I should like to thank you for your opening, as well as for the lucid introduction made by Dr Krone which constitutes a very good background for our discussion. I do not think we have time for parambular comment, so I should just like to stress the significance of this debate for my country, which generally considers this area as a classical case of managing interdependence, and the significance for our national economy as well.

From the very outset I should like to say that Poland supports the idea of placing these issues on the Agenda of this Council. We think that this is consistent with the recommendations of the last technical consultations on high seas fishing. Poland, having made its contribution to finding consensus on these recommendations, believes that they really should constitute a basis for further action, and rather rapid action too.

Without reopening the debate on the respective roles of COFI and the Council, we are absolutely convinced that this session should generate strong support of these recommendations.

Generally, we adhere to the Cancún Declaration, and we highly appreciate the central decisive role Mexico played in convening the International Conference on Responsible Fishing.

Accordingly, we think that follow-ups should be commensurate.

In this context, as suggested by the Chair, I should like to address myself to key recommendations to be found in document CL 102/20 on page 4. Here we believe that the FAO should initiate the preparation of an international code of practice for responsible fishing. That is why I should like to support the proposals made in this body to expedite the process of preparing this very crucial document. A small group of experts could be recruited.

By the same token and with even greater urgency FAO should implement the recommendation concerning the issue of reflagging of high seas fishing vessels. It is a long story. Our expert spoke on that not long ago, so that is why I only present our position on that.

I think I should stress again that COFI should receive a proper mandate, and I should like to associate my position with the views expressed by the delegate of the EEC and with other delegates who have spoken in a similar manner.

Finally, and stressing the need to ensure the adequate place of FAO in multilateral efforts in these domains, as well as our Organization's impact on these efforts, I should like also to stress the need to avoid undue overlapping with the activities of other institutional bodies. I believe that in due course in future these issues will be satisfactorily resolved.

I take this opportunity also to commend the Fisheries Department for its activities which my Government finds both important and useful.

**P.M. NZUE (Kenya):** Mr Chairman, my congratulations go to the Secretariat for the preparation of the two documents before us.

The Kenyan delegation is pleased to be involved in the discussion of this item, particularly when we recall that it was just in September 1992 that we were among the participants at a Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing here in this same room. Allow us to thank the FAO which, in conjunction with the Government of the United States of Mexico, organized a meeting in Cancún in May 1992 on responsible fishing.

We consider these two meetings' recommendations as crucial to the survival of the world's fishing industry. There cannot be a better approach to this matter than the way that FAO is handling it.

Mr Chairman, if you will allow me to go back to the Item on Responsible Fishing, it is my delegation's view that some over-exploitation of fish stock has been continuing unabated, especially when we take into account that most developing countries are disadvantaged in this area.

Some of these coastal states, for obvious reasons, cannot police their EEZs.

We, therefore, call on all States to adhere to the provisions of the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea. In this respect, Mr Chairman, we appeal to the FAO not only to continue its efforts in promoting international understanding on responsible fishing but to go ahead in drafting an international Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. We equally support the contents of paragraph 13 of document CL 102/19, and in general we endorse the Cancún Declaration.

On the regime of the High Seas Fishing, we fully support the conclusions of the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing as contained in paragraph 6 of document CL 102/20. We especially support sub-paragraph (v) and express our hope that regional fishery bodies will continue to receive international support in achieving their goals.

We finally call for urgent assistance to be given to developing countries in their capacity-building efforts in order to allow them to participate in the use of high seas fishery resources.

**Súpote DECHATES (Thailand):** Mr Chairman, may I begin by congratulating the Secretariat for preparing the quality papers in front of us.

Thailand is not a fishing country in the high seas at the present time. However, we are planning to expand to fishing in the high seas through joint ventures with other high seas fishing nations and the coastal states who have, of course, responsible fishing principles. The lack of technology in high seas fishing is one of the obstacles for developing nations, including my own country, to become involved in high seas fishing independently. Hence, my delegation would like to stress the need to strengthen the capacity of developing countries for their participation in high seas fishing as a necessity. So far, Thailand has only developed the industrial fisheries within EEZs with its professionals in this field and Thailand is still one of the world's top ten countries in total fisheries catching since 1977.

With regard to the Cancún Declaration on the principle of sustainable development and sustainable utilization of marine living resources as the basis for fisheries management policies, my country fully supports this Declaration. It must be noted there is a widespread recognition of the important role played by small-scale fisheries in providing food for local consumption and the employment in disadvantaged areas and of the need to improve the welfare of marine and inland fishing communities. My country, therefore, is also aware of the need for conservation and management rules for fishing activities on the high seas which should not have a negative impact on small-scale fisheries. Environmental policies should only deal with the root causes of environmental degradation and the restrictive measures on fishery trade should be avoided.

With regard to responsible fishing practices on the problems of incidental catches of marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds in main fishing gear, this problem depends mainly on the intensity of fishing and the size of stocks or the size in population of marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds in each area. The results of study on incidental catches in particular fishing areas should not apply to other fishing areas. Therefore, the Regional Committees and coastal states should establish marine and coastal protected areas, including an inventory of endangered species and critical coastal and marine habitats, and, where appropriate, protect them through national and international legislation as mentioned in Agenda Item 21 D-33 of the UNCED.

May I now turn to paragraph 11 of the document CL 102/19; my Government feels that FAO is the most suitable body to draft an international Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing taking into account the Declaration in consultation with other relevant international organizations.

Mr Chairman, I support, therefore, the contents as stated in paragraph 13 which requests the Director-General to include these in the Programme of World and Budget and in the Medium-Term Plan for 1992-99.



**Ms Jindra Linda DEMETERIO (Philippines):** A lot has been said by the distinguished delegates ahead of me of the vital importance of the conservation and management of world fishery resources and I certainly shall not go into the subject further.

Suffice it to say that the Philippines delegation shares the same concerns.

It might interest the Council, however, to learn about the efforts that my country continues to exert along the lines of fishery resource conservation and management.

For the first time, Mr Chairman, the Philippines Fisheries Plan for 1992-1995 corrects the total development orientation of previous plans by including a management component.

The management plan calls for: first, the management of fishing efforts for specific areas and/or specific fishery; secondly, the management of the habitat, specifically the protection and conservation of the coral reefs and mangrove areas which are still in excellent condition, and the regeneration of damaged reefs and mangroves; thirdly, the management of research and data generation to provide information on the maximum sustainable yields of important fisheries and selective fishing grounds; and fourthly, the management of the allocation of resources among various users.

Another development in fishery management in the Philippines, which our fishery experts find particularly exciting, is the introduction of Coastal Resources Management (CRM) in twelve selected bays. The management measures being implemented in these bays are (i) territorial delineation of the bays for the exclusive use of small fishermen (and I must mention here that this type of management was advocated by small-scale fishermen themselves);

(ii) resource conservation and regeneration measures through the establishment of fish sanctuaries and artificial reefs and the replenishing of mangroves;

(iii) control of the level of fishing efforts within the bays; (iv) strict enforcement of fishery laws; and (v) devolution of authority for the management of the coastal areas to the local government and the community utilizing the resource.

In closing, Mr Chairman, I wish to express my delegation's full support for the Declaration of Cancún and the results of the Technical Consultations on High Seas Fishing held here last September, wherein my country took active participation.

It is my delegation's opinion that FAO should provide scientific and technical inputs into the proposed UN intergovernmental conference on straddling stocks and highly migratory species. FAO is in the best position to do so especially now after the Technical Consultations earlier mentioned.

The Philippine delegation also particularly endorses the proposal that FAO draft an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and the preparation of methods of control and enforcement and dispute settlement to govern high seas fishing. The Expert Group meeting should thus be convened as soon as possible.

Lastly, my delegation recognizes the important role of regional and sub-regional fishery bodies and we support the call for strengthening the functions of these bodies in high seas fisheries management and the enhancement of cooperation and coordination amongst them.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** The brevity of both documents before us belies the powerful and persuasive argument they contain and the significance of the message which requires us to act immediately in terms of dealing with a very important issue related to international cooperation and development, the whole question of the development of fisheries. We, therefore, note this call to action and join with others of the Council who have declared very openly that the charge has to be led by the FAO, which, by remit and by expertise, is well poised to take the necessary action as indicated in documents CL 102/19 and CL 102/20.

Our concern on these issues arises from the fact that, as small island states, our marine resources represent a very significant proportion of the natural resource base that is available to us both for economic development and, very importantly, for meeting the nutritional requirements of our population. We are therefore alarmed at the evidence that the current action in so far as exploitation of the world's fisheries resources is concerned, if continued unabated, could lead to ruin for us all.

In our small way we understand that responsible approaches in respect of the exploitation of the fisheries resources must be based on data and information of the state of our fish stocks and knowledge, techniques, technologies and management systems for their more rational exploitation.

My country has been making its own small contribution in this regard with both bilateral and multilateral financial and technical assistance. I speak of a recent FAO technical assistance UNDP-funded fish stock assessment project which is just about complete and which, I am sure, the organization with which we are cooperating will be pleased to extend further assistance. I refer also to our continuing initiative with the FAO in terms of updating our fisheries legislation.

At the sub-regional level within CARICOM, the FAO too has been at the forefront of technical assistance in support of fisheries legislation and the development of an inter-governmental arrangement amongst the countries of CARICOM to ensure more responsible management of our EEZs.

I must mention too the generous assistance of the Canadian Government in a Caribbean fisheries resource assessment and management programme of some twenty million Canadian dollars which is intended to expand and enhance our capacity in this regard.

These initiatives are modest by international standards. However, they do speak to the interests and concerns shared by my delegation, and indeed the member states of the CARICOM sub-region of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the question of responsible action in so far as management and exploitation of the world's fisheries resources are concerned. Accordingly, we welcome and support the initiatives as proposed in the documents before us and call on our colleagues of Council to do likewise. In particular, we endorse the proposals in paragraph 13 of document 102/19 which request the Director-General to

include in the programme of work and budget arrangements for the preparation for a draft of an International Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Monsieur le Président, puisque vous êtes sur le point de clôturer la session de ce matin, je profite de l'occasion pour faire une requête, avec votre indulgence et l'acceptation des membres du Conseil.

Demain matin à l'ordre du jour, nous avons l'examen des faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO. A l'intérieur de ce point nous allons discuter des développements au niveau du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

Vous aurez remarqué, M. le Président, que le rapport est quelque peu incomplet sur ce plan-là puisqu'il ne reprend pas les conclusions du Comité ad hoc qui s'est réuni en septembre.

Vous savez aussi que cette question sera abordée par l'Assemblée générale à la quatrième Commission - elle devait être abordée hier mais elle a été reportée à la semaine prochaine. Si j'interviens maintenant c'est afin que le Secrétariat ait le temps d'apporter les compléments nécessaires à ce rapport qui sera présenté demain. Je vous remercie M. le Président.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais faire remarquer que le Canada a fait état hier d'un document proprement canadien dont nous n'avons pas connaissance mais je vais demander à Mme. Killingsworth de tenir compte de la remarque faite par l'Honorable représentant du Maroc, et de nous faire un exposé actualisé de façon que nous puissions discuter de tous les faits nouveaux intervenus dans la famille des Nations Unies intéressant les activités de la FAO.

Je déclare close la session 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

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CL 102/PV/6

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102º período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1992)

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

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. Recent Developments in the Field of International Fisheries (continued)
- 6. Faits nouveaux survenus récemment dans le domaine des pêches internationales (suite)
- 6. Novedades en el sector de la pesca internacional (continuación)
- 6.1. Responsible Fishing
- 6.1. La pêche responsable
- 6.1. Pesca responsable
- 6.2. Regime of High Seas Fishing
- 6.2. Régime de la pêche en haute mer
- 6.2. Régimen de pesca en alta mar

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** Por ser la primera vez que hago uso de la palabra en este Consejo que usted preside, permítame felicitarle por la manera tan eficaz y estimulante en que usted conduce nuestros debates.

La delegación argentina comparte y estima la presentación de los documentos CL 102/19 y CL 102/20 y muy especialmente la presentación del Sr. Krone, sus explicaciones y comentarios sobre las novedades en el sector que él dirige.

Mi delegación conviene en que es necesario extender el ámbito de concertación y aplicación de acuerdos internacionales en materia pesquera, entre ellos un código de conducta sobre la pesca responsable y la limitación del esfuerzo, así como también sobre la pesca en alta mar.

Nuestro Gobierno sigue con atención los estudios y las recomendaciones de la FAO en materia de pesca y conservación de recursos ictícolas. Emprendemos regularmente, a través de dos buques especializados, investigaciones sobre la biomasa y stocks pesqueros y no dudamos en proponer, cuando lo consideramos conveniente, reducir el máximo rendimiento sostenible.

En base a esto desearía enfatizar la responsabilidad y competencia de los Estados ribereños para establecer medidas de conservación en sus Zonas Económicas Exclusivas y al mismo tiempo contribuir a extender tales medidas a alta mar, en el marco apropiado.

El Comité de Pesca señaló en abril de 1991 la necesidad de concentrar la atención en la responsabilidad de los que intervienen en la pesca y en la promoción de una conducta responsable en las operaciones de pesca. Sin duda, la FAO tiene una función importantísima que cumplir en el desarrollo de una conciencia de pesca responsable y marítimo conservacionista.

Mi país se asocia a la convocatoria de la Conferencia de Cancún sobre la elaboración de un Código de conducta sobre pesca responsable y comparte también la declaración de México de la Conferencia de Cancún sobre los aspectos comerciales que influyen en la utilización racional de los recursos pesqueros.

Por todo ello, apoyamos la propuesta de que el Director General incluya en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y en el Plan de Plazo Medio (1994-1999) las

disposiciones para la preparación de las bases técnicas de un proyecto de Código internacional de conducta para la pesca responsable, en consulta con las organizaciones internacionales pertinentes.

Con relación al tema 6.2 "Régimen de pesca en alta mar", mi delegación entiende que el documento CL 102/20 constituye una buena presentación al Consejo de las observaciones vertidas en ocasión de la Consulta Técnica sobre este tema, celebrada en septiembre último.

Sin perjuicio de ello, deseáramos enfatizar y plantear ciertas precisiones que nosotros creemos necesarias:

En la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo, el capítulo 17 del Programa 21 fijó el rol central de la FAO para proporcionar los estudios científicos y técnicos fundamentales para identificar los problemas de conservación y ordenación y formular las recomendaciones apropiadas sobre este tema. Estos estudios, junto con las actividades de control y vigilancia, entendemos que son esenciales para la ordenación de la pesca en alta mar. Creemos que éste es un claro mandato de lo que se espera de la FAO, que confiamos llevará a cabo con la competencia que la caracteriza.

Con respecto a los aspectos jurídicos de tales regulaciones, es decir, la atribución de derechos y responsabilidades de los estados y las empresas pesqueras, los eventuales mecanismos de control y de sanción, evidentemente éstos serán elaborados por los representantes de gobiernos y particularmente por los expertos jurídicos de los gobiernos en el marco que la Comunidad Internacional ha decidido llevarlos a cabo, que es la Conferencia Intergubernamental sobre Pesca en Alta Mar.

Creo que los párrafos 7 y 8 in fine del documento CL 102/20 coinciden en este criterio. Por lo menos está claro para nosotros.

En este sentido también, tal como recoge el documento en sus párrafos 6.X, la Consulta celebrada en septiembre señaló que no era conveniente examinar las cuestiones jurídicas referentes a la pesca de alta mar en la Consulta, tanto por la complejidad y el número de las cuestiones implicadas, como por la conveniencia, diría yo la conveniencia y el imperativo lógico, de no adelantarse o de no prejuzgar con respecto a lo que decidirá la próxima Conferencia intergubernamental de las Naciones Unidas.

Deseamos, por nuestra parte, con la salvedad expresada por el Sr. Presidente en cuanto al valor y al alcance de lo resuelto por la referida Consulta Técnica, que estas conclusiones de la Consulta Técnica sean tenidas en cuenta por los Miembros del Consejo.

Por último, mi delegación se asocia al deseo de que la FAO considere, quizás de manera urgente, como han pedido algunas delegaciones, el problema del cambio de pabellón de las embarcaciones que pescan en alta mar, en el marco de un grupo de expertos y en colaboración con la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** En tant que membre d'une délégation d'un pays qui a activement participé en 1984 à la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur les pêches, j'ai constaté que les résultats de cette Conférence de 1984 n'ont pas été placés aux oubliettes, mais que cette Conférence continue à avoir un

prolongement, une suite logique à travers des thèmes tels que ceux de la pêche responsable et le régime de la pêche en haute mer dont le Conseil est saisi à la présente session. C'est un titre de satisfaction pour notre délégation.

Nous voudrions être brefs étant donné que la plupart des intervenants qui nous ont précédés ont déjà déclaré l'essentiel de ce que nous voulons dire.

Ainsi, bien que n'ayant pas personnellement pris part à la Conférence de Cancún, après l'avoir examinée, nous appuyons la déclaration qui en résultait, et nous appuyons en particulier les six décisions finales qui sont énoncées. Ce faisant, c'est en toute logique que nous marquons notre accord afin que le Directeur général de la FAO soit autorisé, dans le Programme de travail et budget et dans le Plan à moyen terme 1994-1999 qu'il nous soumettra ultérieurement, à y inclure des arrangements pour la préparation d'un projet de Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable en collaboration avec d'autres organisations internationales compétentes en se basant sur la déclaration de Cancún ainsi que sur le chapitre 17 du Programme d'action 21 appuyé par la CNUCED.

Ainsi que vous le savez, bien qu'ayant une large ouverture côtière sur l'océan Atlantique, le Congo, notre pays, faute de moyens, ne tire pas encore pleinement partie de ses ressources halieutiques, mais il n'en est pas moins engagé à y parvenir. Aussi, c'est en prévision de cette issue que le Congo, qui est entièrement intéressé par les ressources halieutiques, souhaiterait être associé à toutes les initiatives sur l'aménagement des pêches maritimes.

Nous ne voulons pas aujourd'hui rouvrir les débats qui ont eu sans doute lieu en mai dernier à Cancún pour soutenir le bien-fondé et la nécessité d'un code de conduite pour une pêche responsable. Toutefois, nous aimerions signaler que bien que les ZEE aient été étendues plus au large des mers et des océans, les pays en voie de développement n'en tirent pas encore pleinement profit faute de moyens matériels, technologiques, humains et financiers nécessaires à cette fin.

De ce fait, dans plusieurs pays en voie de développement, la loi qui prévaut est encore celle non pas du plus fort, mais des pays les plus avancés technologiquement en la matière. C'est aussi dire que les pillages n'ont pas encore disparu totalement.

Ainsi, pour plusieurs autres raisons, et principalement pour celles que nous venons d'évoquer, nous croyons qu'entre-temps seul un Code de conduite imposant à tous le respect de la souveraineté de chaque Etat côtier, et donc une pêche responsable, reposant sur un esprit de loyauté, peut sauvegarder les intérêts des plus faibles.

Tout en redoutant l'éventuel double emploi, nous souhaitons que l'établissement de ce Code se fasse sans plus tarder sous l'égide de la FAO.

Enfin, sur le régime juridique de la pêche en haute mer, nous appuyons la suggestion du paragraphe 8, iii) (document CL 102/20) visant à ce que sur la base de propositions d'experts, et en collaboration avec les autres organisations concernées, la FAO s'intéresse sans plus tarder aux problèmes de changement de pavillon des navires pêchant en haute mer.



Dans ces activités, nous souhaitons que la FAO tienne pleinement compte du rôle important des organismes régionaux et sous-régionaux s'occupant de la pêche et les y associe.

**Mme Maria de Lourdes DUARTE (Cap-Vert):** Tout d'abord nos remerciements vont à vous, M. le Président, et à M. Krone pour l'introduction du point 6 de notre ordre du jour.

Le point 6 soumis à notre examen mérite une importance particulière pour mon pays, du fait de la haute priorité que le Gouvernement accorde au secteur des pêches. Cette importance est d'autant plus grande que nous sommes un pays insulaire, de superficie réduite, avec un faible pourcentage de terres agricoles fertiles et sujet à des fréquentes périodes de sécheresse. Ce petit pays a une grande zone économique exclusive, et les produits de la pêche constituent la principale source de protéines pour la population.

Nous cherchons à dynamiser le secteur de la pêche artisanale et industrielle et à moderniser les moyens de capture, structures, et équipements de transformation, de façon à ce que ce secteur produise des ressources financières et apporte une aide dans la recherche de l'équilibre de la balance commerciale.

Nous coopérons avec la FAO et divers pays dans l'exploitation de nos ressources halieutiques et sommes certains que cette coopération contribuera aussi à la mise en place de mécanismes de surveillance à tous les niveaux.

Notre préoccupation au sujet de la pêche durable et de la préservation du milieu marin nous a amenés à l'adoption des mesures pour le contrôle de la pêche de la langouste et l'interdiction de la capture des tortues marines.

Mon pays a d'ailleurs participé aux tous derniers événements dans le domaine des pêches.

Cela dit, ma délégation approuve la réalisation de la Conférence intergouvernementale sur les stocks et les grands migrateurs et réaffirme son appui à la déclaration de Cancún. Mon pays souscrit à l'appel lancé pour le renforcement des capacités des pays en développement et des organismes régionaux et sous-régionaux. Il réaffirme son appui à la Déclaration de Cancún et plus précisément au fait que la FAO puisse prendre des mesures pour entamer, sans plus de délais, l'élaboration d'un Code international de conduite pour la pêche responsable et qu'un accord sur des mesures de promotion du commerce international soit trouvé tout en soutenant la Déclaration du Mexique, dont nous appuyons la proposition visant à demander au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier d'accorder un plus grand appui aux programmes de la pêche.

**Ivan MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia):** He estado muy atento, Sr. Presidente, a las reuniones de este Consejo, sin embargo, cuando usted ha tenido la gentileza de ofrecerme la palabra, por razones ajenas a mi voluntad, estaba ausente del recinto, por lo cual le presento mis disculpas a usted y a este Consejo. Créame, Sr. Presidente, que ha sido una fatalidad y que no es mi deseo perturbar el ritmo del trabajo del Consejo.

Señores delegados, Colombia tiene costas sobre dos océanos, el Pacífico y el Atlántico. Por eso comprendemos nuestra inmensa responsabilidad y nuestro compromiso de cooperar y de colaborar con todos los esfuerzos que se hacen para racionalizar la pesca y ajustaría a los códigos de conservación del ambiente, a las necesidades alimentarias de la población y ajustaría, además, a los derechos indiscutibles de las generaciones futuras de recibir un patrimonio natural que les permita vivir con dignidad y con prosperidad. Por esta razón queremos estar en todas las reuniones internacionales abiertas a nuestra participación y colaborar en los trabajos y la formulación de convenios que nos permitan a todos explotar con responsabilidad y con justicia los recursos del mar. Esta es la razón por la cual estuvimos en la Conferencia Internacional sobre Pesca Responsable, reunida en Cancún bajo los auspicios de México y suscribimos la Declaración de esa conferencia. Renovamos nuestro acuerdo y nuestra identidad con la Declaración de Cancún y exhortamos a este Consejo a que la avale en sus contenidos y en sus alcances y renueve así su vigencia.

Estamos de acuerdo con que el Director General de la FAO, el Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas hagan las provisiones que sean necesarias para que se inicie cuanto antes la elaboración de los textos que sirvan para la discusión y la concreción de los términos de un Código internacional de conducta para la pesca responsable y nos unimos a las voces que señalan a la FAO como el escenario idóneo para que se realicen las discusiones que deben abrirle camino a la firma de un convenio sobre esta materia.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, quiero felicitar al Sr. Krone por la presentación que ha hecho de este importante tema.

**Ulf SVENS SON (Sweden):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor. It is only for a brief clarification of a proposal made by the Swedish delegation this morning. It concerns the role of FAO in the preparation of the UN Conference on Straddling Stocks which is presently under deliberation in the General Assembly for a decision on the holding of the Conference. However a decision was taken at Rio in UNCED on the holding of the Conference.

What we want to suggest is that this Council will take a decision to authorize the Director-General of FAO to provide, upon invitation by the General Assembly, the Secretariat of the UN Conference on Straddling Stocks within existing resources. We make this proposal because we think it is extremely important that this very important issue should not be split up, that a new Secretariat be established at high cost in New York dealing with this matter that is within the purview of FAO. We do not want the Law of the Sea Office in New York to deal with this because this is not a legal issue. It is an important fisheries political issue. We hope, therefore, that the Council will take this decision. We might have a risk that there will be a sterile confrontation between the coastal states with intensive fisheries and the countries with high seas big modern fleets, instead of dealing with it under the framework of FAO where we are working out concrete and practical proposals which would avoid this sterile confrontation.

**Ms Christine Heather BOGLE (Observer for New Zealand):** I am very pleased as an observer to have the opportunity to make a few comments. These relate to the question of high seas fishing. New Zealand is very appreciative of the focus that FAO has been giving recently to issues relating to high seas

fishing. We welcomed our participation in the recent Technical Consultation in September. We were pleased to hear the wide-ranging and substantive contribution made by many countries. We thought this Consultation was a very useful preliminary step toward the intergovernmental conference about which we have just been talking, which will be held on straddling stocks and highly migratory species under UN auspices.

We wanted to recall that at that Technical Consultation in September the New Zealand delegate expressed some reservation about some parts of the draft report, and noted that, although he acquiesced in the adoption of the report, this would not prejudice New Zealand's position in relation to the report. We are pleased and we agree that the report from that Technical Consultation is being referred forward to the next Session of the Committee on Fisheries next March, and we see COFI as the competent body to consider the scientific and technical matters in that report.

In the meantime, as far as this Council is concerned, we have been pleased to note that the Council is not in any way considering or making comment on the recommendations of the Technical Committee report, since that is going to be done in the first instance by COFI. We believe that any report from this Council on matters relating to the September Technical Consultation should be restricted to those which we have in fact been discussing here, those matters set out in paragraph 8 of document CL 102/20.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Al entregar la palabra al Embajador de Uruguay, quisiera aprovechar la oportunidad para agradecer a su país por la organización de la Conferencia Regional de Montevideo, que fue un éxito completo gracias a ese país y al Presidente de la República de Uruguay. Quisiera también decir que el desarrollo de la pesca en Uruguay parece muy satisfactorio y que es un elemento muy importante para el desarrollo de este país.

**Julio LUPINACCI (Observador de Uruguay):** En realidad, Sr. Presidente, usted ha ocupado parte de lo que yo iba a decir en lo que se refiere al desarrollo pesquero de Uruguay y le agradezco profundamente la referencia tan amable que ha hecho a la organización de la Reunión Regional de Montevideo y a la parte que le tocó al Uruguay en esa organización. Por supuesto que fue en estrecha colaboración con la FAO y si el éxito ha culminado sus trabajos ha sido también, y especialmente, por la colaboración tan eficiente de los funcionarios y de las autoridades de la FAO.

Quiero también, Sr. Presidente, agradecer al Dr. Krone por su excelente presentación del tema que estamos considerando aquí, así como por sus intervenciones y agradecer también a la secretaria por la presentación de estos documentos sobre pesca responsable y pesca en alta mar.

Como usted decía, Sr. Presidente, el Uruguay tuvo un desarrollo muy significativo en los últimos años de su industria pesquera, a partir de la entrada en vigor del Tratado de Río de la Plata y su frente marítimo que definió las fronteras marítimas con nuestra vecina y hermana, la República Argentina. Se produjo un gran desarrollo en nuestra industria pesquera, no voy a cansar a ustedes con cifras, ni mucho menos, pero recordemos que en el año 1975 el Uruguay explotaba alrededor de veintiséis o veintisiete mil toneladas y en el año 1991 pasó a casi 144 000 toneladas. Todas esas explotaciones se han hecho siempre sobre la base de una estricta aplicación de una política

conservacionista de preservación de los recursos pesqueros que nos corresponden al Atlántico Sur. En consecuencia, el Uruguay tiene interés fundamental en la preservación de esos recursos, de esa zona tan importante para la exportación pesquera que es el Atlántico Sur y que en muchos casos, más allá de las Zonas Económicas Exclusivas de nuestros países, se está produciendo un exceso de explotación, especialmente en zonas adyacentes a nuestra zona económica exclusiva y a la zona común de pesca que tenemos con la República Argentina, de acuerdo con el Tratado que acabo de mencionar.

Ese mismo Tratado, Sr. Presidente, estableció la Comisión Técnica Mixta del frente marítimo, es decir, la Comisión bilateral entre los dos países que desarrollan una actividad muy interesante y muy importante en la preservación y en la evaluación de los recursos y administración de los recursos de esa zona común de pesca.

Y ha contado, y me complace especialmente destacarlo y dejar constancia de ello, con la colaboración y la asistencia de la FAO. Esperamos, Sr. Presidente, poder seguir contando, sea a través de la Comisión Técnica Mixta o nuestro propio país, de esa colaboración y de esa asistencia oportunamente, a fin de poder seguir evaluando y tomando medidas y hacer estudios que permitan ser la base para las medidas de conservación y ordenación que corresponde oportunamente adoptar.

El Uruguay apoya firmemente lo establecido en la Declaración de Cancún. Participó en esa reunión al más alto nivel y actuó activamente y, por supuesto, suscribió esa Declaración. Nosotros ahora ratificamos esa Declaración.

Me complace señalar también que ya el Parlamento uruguayo dio la aprobación a la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar y próximamente depositaremos el instrumento de ratificación de esa importante Convención que, ojalá, tenga a su vez también la ratificación de muchos otros países, ya que veo con mucha satisfacción, Sr. Presidente, que muchos delegados aquí presentes se refieren a la Convención, pero ella no tiene todavía la ratificación de muchos países de la comunidad internacional.

A mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, le interesa especialmente señalar tres puntos fundamentales en este tema en los cuales, creo, la FAO tiene un papel muy importante que cumplir. En primer lugar, entendemos que se debe llegar a una aplicación eficaz de las disposiciones de la CONVEMAR y sobre la base de las disposiciones que esta Convención establece, especialmente en el capítulo referente a la conservación de los recursos de alta mar y también en los artículos de Zona Económica Exclusiva referentes a las zonas adyacentes a ésta, realizar un desarrollo que se considera necesario de esas mismas disposiciones tendientes a la conservación, a la ordenación y a la racional explotación de los recursos marinos a los fines de desarrollo sostenible de esos recursos.

Atribuimos, en consecuencia, Sr. Presidente, como lo han hecho también otras delegaciones, una especial importancia a la próxima Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Pesca en Alta Mar, que consideramos puede cumplir un hito más en este proceso tan importante que comienza con la propia Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar.

En este punto la FAO, como organización y organismo especializado, tiene una labor muy importante que cumplir de colaboración y de asistencia a esta Conferencia.

El segundo punto, señalado en forma generalizada por todas las delegaciones, es la importancia que atribuimos al Código internacional de conducta para la pesca responsable. Teniendo en cuenta la Declaración de Cancún y el capítulo XVII de la Agenda 21 de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente, creemos muy importante que la FAO se aboque como organismo especializado, y especialmente preparado para ello, a la elaboración de este Código internacional de conducta para imponer en los mares, en alta mar especialmente, una política responsable de explotación de recursos marinos.

Por eso Sr. Presidente, mi delegación apoya especialmente lo que se propone en el párrafo 13 en el documento CL 102/19 en el sentido de incluir en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y en el Plan a Plazo Medio de la FAO, disposiciones para la preparación de este proyecto de Código internacional de conducta para la pesca responsable.

El otro punto que creemos muy importante señalar y destacar es el de la cooperación internacional.

Los tres puntos fundamentales que interesan al tema en que la FAO tiene un papel importante que cumplir, en primer lugar, como decía, la próxima Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre la Pesca Responsable a la cual estoy interesado como todos los países aquí presentes, y la FAO tiene una colaboración importante que prestar a esa Conferencia, que es un desarrollo y una etapa más en el proceso de regulación de la actividad de los Estados en los océanos y en los mares que se inicia especialmente a partir de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar.

En el segundo punto, Sr. Presidente, decía que es la elaboración del Código internacional de conducta para la pesca responsable, teniendo en cuenta la declaración de Cancún y el capítulo 17 de la Agenda 21 de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente, y, para la cual, la FAO está especialmente calificada para elaborar. Creemos por eso que es importante, apoyamos por eso el párrafo 13 del documento CL 102/19 en el sentido de incluir en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y en el Plan a Plazo Medio de la FAO, disposiciones para la preparación de este proyecto de Código tan importante a nuestro juicio.

El tercer punto, es el de la cooperación entre los Estados para el enfoque del problema de la pesca responsable, sobre todo en alta mar. Las medidas de conservación y ordenación con que se van imponiendo cada vez más, requieren evidentemente de la cooperación entre los Estados y muy fundamentalmente quiero referirme, por supuesto, a la cooperación de los países en desarrollo para que tengamos los medios adecuados para efectivamente cumplir las medidas de ordenación y conservación de esos recursos, y participar, por supuesto, en la pesca en alta mar.

Quiero referirme también al documento CL 102/20. Compartimos las conclusiones que el punto 6 del documento establece. Algunas delegaciones han hecho unas observaciones al informe que emanó de la Consulta Técnica que se realizó en septiembre de este año aquí en la FAO.

Nuestra delegación comparte algunas de esas observaciones, sin perjuicio de reconocer y señalar la importancia que esa Consulta Técnica significó y el aporte que ella va a constituir en la preparación de los futuros pasos que se den en esta materia, tanto en lo que se refiere a la misma reunión de las Naciones Unidas, como a la preparación del Código de conducta sobre pesca responsable.

En el párrafo 8 se señalan algunos puntos. Compartimos el criterio que se expresa en el párrafo primero de por lo menos suspender la realización de la Consulta Intergubernamental sobre Pesca y Ordenación Racional de los Recursos de Alta Mar, habida cuenta de la próxima reunión que, como se supone, será así, de la Conferencia sobre Pesca en Alta Mar de las Naciones Unidas. Por eso creemos pertinente y razonable que esta reunión prevista por el momento no se realice y compartimos también los demás puntos de este párrafo 8, por supuesto, el que se refiere a la Declaración de Cancún y en lo que se refiere al quinto punto sobre la necesidad de incrementar la capacidad de los países en desarrollo en cuanto a su participación en la pesca de alta mar, creo que debiera enfatizarse en el sentido de señalar particularmente las capacidades en materia científica y tecnológica en los países en desarrollo. Es una observación que me permito hacer en este documento que esté implícito si se quiere lo que dicen pero creemos muy importante señalarlo especialmente en este campo, en el tecnológico y el científico donde el gran abismo entre los países en desarrollo y los países desarrollados existe.

Estas son fundamentalmente las consideraciones que quería hacer sobre este tema y le agradezco mucho.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchísimas gracias señor Embajador por su intervención, creo también que el papel de los organismos regionales y subregionales, es un papel muy importante y que la FAO tiene una responsabilidad para tratar de asegurar una buena cooperación y coordinación entre esos organismos regionales y subregionales como usted ha dicho.

**Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'OCDE):** Je vous remercie d'avoir bien voulu me donner la parole et je profite de cette occasion pour me féliciter de vous voir présider cette cent deuxième session du Conseil. Je vous suis reconnaissant pour votre amabilité, votre haute professionnalité, votre sagesse et votre façon incomparable de conduire nos travaux.

Je désire aussi féliciter pour leur élection, les Vice-Présidents MM. Gill (Inde), Francisco Javier Alejo López (Mexique) et Zine El Abidine Sebti (Maroc).

Monsieur le Président, le problème de la pêche est un problème très ancien et l'on peut même dire qu'il s'agit de l'un des problèmes les plus anciens du monde car son existence est étroitement liée à la vie et à la prospérité de l'homme.

Que le Conseil s'occupe de cette question, c'est tout à fait normal et je me permets, à cette occasion, de faire un jeu de mots en disant que ne pas parler de pêche serait un grand péché.

Je tiens à féliciter M. le Sous-Directeur général du Département des pêches pour sa brillante présentation des deux intéressants documents que le Conseil

est en train de traiter. Il s'agit de deux documents succincts mais il faut reconnaître qu'être bref n'est pas facile et parfois je conclus mes rapports en disant: "excusez-moi de ne pas avoir été aussi bref que je l'aurais voulu". Les recommandations qui nous parviennent des conférences, des études et des résolutions diffusées à propos de la pêche nous conduisent à manifester notre reconnaissance à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies pour sa Résolution 44/225, adoptée le 22 décembre, sur la pêche aux grands filets pélagiques dérivants et ses conséquences sur les ressources biologiques des océans et des mers. La Conférence de mai 1992 tenue au Mexique et la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le Développement tenue à Rio de Janeiro en juin 1992 - qui a mis au point des programmes visant l'utilisation durable et la conservation des ressources biologiques marines -méritent la même considération.

Dans les documents, on parle de pêche responsable, cela me fait penser à un autre grand problème que l'on évoque dont on parle souvent "la paternité responsable!". Il faut reconnaître que l'homme ne respecte pas toujours les principes moraux et éthiques qu'il s'agisse de la vie humaine ou qu'il s'agisse de la vie animale.

Les flots d'encre que l'on a fait couler sur ces problèmes nous confirment l'importance de ces questions.

Les études conduites auprès et par l'initiative de différentes organisations internationales nous apportent satisfaction et espérance car il ne faut pas oublier que le poisson est un grand don de Dieu et qu'il est nécessaire que sa vie, dans une certaine mesure soit respectée et que son exploitation soit rigoureusement contrôlée.

La biologie marine se situe parmi les disciplines prioritaires car les différentes espèces de poisson nous donnent la possibilité de nous nourrir mais aussi de nous soigner. En effet, alors que la viande bovine et celle d'autres animaux contiennent des matières grasses saturées, riches en cholestérol, le poisson contient des graisses moninsaturées et polyinsaturées, comme celles d'origines végétale, et combat, jusqu'à le détruire, le cholestérol LDL, qu'on appelle "le méchant", car il est la cause de nombreuses maladies coronariennes et de maladies de la circulation en général.

Il ne faut pas oublier non plus les risques que présente une alimentation riche en matières grasses saturées pour l'apparition de certains cancers qui touchent, entre autres, certains organes très importants de l'organisme humain.

La Déclaration de Cancún nous incite à une profonde réflexion. Elle doit être bien étudiée et méditée car elle a été conçue non seulement pour défendre nos intérêts actuels et futurs mais surtout pour défendre notre santé.

Parmi les ouvrages qui ont été publiés, la réalisation, sur l'initiative de l'OCDE, d'un dictionnaire multilingue des poissons et produits de la pêche, édité en 1968, me revient à l'esprit. Il a suscité beaucoup d'intérêt surtout en raison du fait qu'en plus de l'anglais, du français et du latin, treize autres langues ont été employées. Il apporte une aide considérable tant au niveau des organismes intéressés qu'à celui des restaurants et des touristes.

L'argument que nous avons traité mériterait qu'on lui dédie plus de temps mais il ne manquera pas d'être discuté lors de la prochaine Conférence internationale sur la nutrition à laquelle je souhaite tout le succès possible.

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** Muy brevemente ante la entusiasta alusión del representante de la República Oriental del Uruguay sobre nuestra Comisión Mixta del Frente Marítimo, sólo quisiera decir que el Gobierno Argentino comparte lo dicho por el Embajador de la República Oriental del Uruguay, en el sentido de que esta Comisión Bilateral, es el órgano adecuado para que ambos países intercambien opiniones y requieran a la FAO estudios y programas de conservación de recursos.

**W. KRONE (Assistant Director-General a.i., Fisheries Department):** I think I will start with the easiest point first and that is the unanimous support for the Declaration of Cancún. I think we should also express our appreciation for the initiative of the Government of Mexico in having called this important Conference. One of the important points of the Declaration is that FAO should, in consultation with other international organizations, prepare a draft Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing and I think this recommendation also has unanimous support. We are just going to go ahead and prepare some material which will be discussed at the forthcoming session of the Committee on Fisheries in March next year. This will include some suggestions regarding the contents and time-frame for elaboration, approval and implementation of such a Code.

I think we should be frank about this matter. Such an undertaking is not an easy one. The material is very complex, there are many diversified issues to be addressed, and some of these have to be addressed by specialist consultations. We, therefore, should not expect to rush such a Code of Conduct through, or try to rush it through, our Governing Bodies.

I think it is right to include it in the Medium-Term Programme but that does not mean we put it on the medium term, but we do not expect some final drafts for your consideration to be ready before we are in that medium term. I think we have received a number of suggestions regarding the content of the code but this will be certainly further elaborated upon by COFI.

I think the important point is that it should be based on the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea. That is a basic framework and thereafter there are various other texts which provide useful material for elaboration of this code, the Cancún Declaration being one, the UNCED Agenda 21 being another one and the Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing is also another one. There is, I think, fairly wide agreement that the content should be broader than just covering the high seas. The Cancún Declaration itself refers to many other matters than just the high seas; it refers to aquaculture as well as fair trade practices.

If it is desired - and this is quite understandable - that any particular part, which relates to high seas, should be more binding, should be more stringent, or should have specific stronger implications, then these could become part of a separate Code of Convention. The Code will certainly make reference to, and incorporate, many existing texts already agreed upon like MARPOL, for instance, or like the International Agreements on Safety at Sea.



This is an extremely important area, the safety of fishermen at sea which is often unfortunately overlooked. That is very often because the fisheries administration are not at the same time responsible for the safety of fishermen at sea.

The Code will certainly address matters of monitoring control and surveillance of training in various fields and capacities as well as enhancement of research needs. I am just mentioning these in passing and I am not even trying to be comprehensive but the document we are preparing for the Committee on Fisheries will certainly give more precise indications of what such a code could contain and then COFI, and all of your countries, will then have an opportunity to express their views on it.

The reflagging business should certainly be part of the code but as we, I think, very strongly were recommended by the technical consultation, we have tried to put it on a faster track, as we call it. That is the reason why we have already drawn it to the attention of your Council at this stage and not waited for COFI to take the first step and have the first discussion on it. Thus, we now have time, with your endorsement, which I derive from the discussion, to do something urgently about it. This would allow us to prepare and put material together so COFI can have a more informed and substantive discussion on the matter.

The expert group which we intend to call together very early next year will be a very informal group and probably very small. There will be an ad hoc undertaking which could perhaps result some time in the draft being available at COFI. I cannot promise you that because we really do not know sufficient about it ourselves. Perhaps Mr Moore will give you a few implications of what the legal alternatives are to getting a more formal international agreement or convention to FAO.

Finally, the question of the conference on high seas fishing and straddling stocks and migratory species; there are mixed views here in the Council and obviously we knew that. We have the fairly firm recommendation of UNCED. I think we can gather from this discussion here this morning and this afternoon that it is advocated FAO have a strong role.

The last proposal from Sweden was that our Director-General should be authorized, upon the indication of the General Assembly, to provide the Secretariat for the conference. It says "within the existing resources". That is always easily said but sometimes not easy to achieve. We are asked to do more and more. We have to make cuts somewhere and there are many other priorities to be dealt with.

I would conclude by saying that this view will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly and the delegation there. I would also trust that the delegations here at this Council will bring these matters to the attention of their respective partners in New York. There are various possible combinations. Certainly FAO as requested will wish to provide all its technical and scientific input to such an important undertaking.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** As Dr Krone has said, I would like to respond very briefly to some of the comments regarding the reflagging issue and to outline some of the alternative ways in which action could be taken.

I notice that several of the delegations have referred to the possible need for an agreement. A number of them have also referred to the urgency of the issue. The point has also been made that it is perhaps an issue requiring careful planning and consideration. The Secretariat recognizes and will take full account of both of these points. The Secretariat will certainly do what it can to place this issue on the fast track, consistent with doing a proper job on it.

In this connection I note the concerns of the delegate from the USA regarding the time limits if we were to go for an agreement and do it under Article XIV of the Constitution. In fact, if we were going to try to adopt an agreement under Article XIV we would really have to have a finished text round about June next year, that is at the time of the next Council because under our Constitution we are required to circulate to all Member Nations the full text of a convention to be adopted under Article XIV at least 90 days before the opening of the Conference. We can reassure the United States that even if it is not possible to get full agreement by the time of the next Conference, there is no bar to FAO hosting a diplomatic conference in 1994 for the adoption of an agreement outside the framework of Article XIV but still under the aegis of the Organization, so that the time limits are not quite so constraining as they may seem at first sight.

In summary, we have two possible ways of proceeding, either under Article XIV or through a stand-alone diplomatic conference, which could easily be in 1994.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous arrivons au terme de nos travaux. Concernant le premier point sur lequel nous devons nous définir, un large accord s'est dégagé. Peut-être vous souviendrez - vous que lors de sa 99ème session notre Conseil avait décidé, suivant l'avis de la majorité des membres, d'organiser pendant l'exercice 1992-1993 une consultation d'experts suivie d'une consultation intergouvernementale. Il résulte de la situation que cette consultation intergouvernementale est superfétatoire, et que nous avons le devoir de revoir la décision qui fut prise par le Conseil en 1991.

Je tiens à remercier l'ensemble des intervenants, membres du Conseil et observateurs, pour la clarté de leurs exposés. Je crois qu'en ce qui concerne la Déclaration de Cancún, nous ne pouvons que remercier une fois de plus le Mexique pour le rôle de leader qu'il a mené dans le cadre de cette Conférence internationale sur la pêche responsable.

En ce qui concerne le Code de conduite, il en sera tenu compte dans le cadre de l'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget, et le Comité des pêches pourra examiner la question plus avant en mars 1993.

En ce qui concerne le changement de pavillon, un groupe d'experts se réunira début 1993 et pourra fournir un rapport à l'intention du Comité des pêches en mars 1993.

En ce qui concerne les organisations et les organismes régionaux et sous-régionaux, la quasi-totalité des membres du Conseil a exprimé le désir que la FAO puisse donner aux organismes régionaux et sous-régionaux l'impulsion nécessaire en leur fournissant, à leur demande, l'appui que ces organismes souhaiteraient obtenir.

Un accord général s'est dégagé sur la nécessité de renforcer les capacités des pays en voie de développement.

En ce qui concerne la Conférence internationale, je crois que le problème se situe à l'heure actuelle au niveau des Nations Unies, et que si l'Assemblée générale demande à la FAO de jouer un rôle actif, il va de soi que le Conseil autorise le Directeur général à fournir tout le support technique voulu, spécialement dans le domaine qui a été évoqué par le représentant du Royaume de Suède en ce qui concerne les stocks chevauchants.

Je crois que nous avons fait un excellent travail. La discussion a peut-être été un peu longue. Il me reste à remercier tous les intervenants. Si, sur l'un ou l'autre point, vous désirez avoir un éclairage supplémentaire, je vous donne bien volontiers la parole.

**0. TOUGGARD (EEC):** I apologize for intervening at this late stage of the discussion here. However, I would like to make a small reservation as to the proposal made by my Swedish colleague. I believe that the final decision as to how the international conference should be organized technically must be decided at the United Nations in New York.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre intervention mais je signale que j'ai dit que c'était à l'Assemblée générale de prendre la décision, que l'avis du Conseil serait bien sûr transmis aux autorités des Nations Unies, mais que c'est l'Assemblée Générale qui est habilitée à demander l'appui de la FAO et le support technique voulu si elle l'estime utile.

Nous en avons terminé avec ce point de l'ordre du jour. Je remercie tous les participants de leurs interventions.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA

7. FAO Activities related to Environment and Sustainable Development: Progress Report on Implementation of Resolution 2/91: for discussion and/or decision

7. Activités de la FAO relatives à l'environnement et au développement durable: Rapport intérimaire sur l'application de la Résolution 2/91: pour examen et éventuellement decision

7. Actividades de la FAO relacionadas con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible: Informe sobre la aplicación de la Resolución 2/91: para debate y/o decisión

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le point 7 de l'ordre du jour concerne les activités de la FAO relatives à l'environnement et au développement durable. Il s'agit du Rapport intérimaire sur l'application de la Résolution 2/91 qui, dans le texte français, se trouve aux pages 21 et 22 du rapport de la Conférence de la FAO à sa 26ème session en novembre 1991 (CL 102/6).

Cette question importante a été examinée par le Comité du Programme et je voudrais tout spécialement saluer la présence du Dr Bommer, Président du

Comité du Programme, qui a présidé ce Comité avec une maîtrise toute particulière. Je le remercie de m'avoir permis de suivre les activités de ce Comité, et à l'heure où d'aucuns remettent en cause le fonctionnement des Comités à composition restreinte, il me paraît important pour nous, qui avons pu suivre les travaux de ce Comité, de dire combien les comités fonctionnent parfaitement, que ce soit le Comité financier, le Comité du Programme, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Ces différents comités sont régis par le Règlement général de l'Organisation et chacun de ces comités dispose d'un règlement intérieur. Je crois que les différents groupes ont suffisamment de liens avec les membres de ces différents comités pour faire toutes les propositions qu'ils estimerait devoir faire lors des réunions de ces comités. Si des propositions doivent être faites, il serait souhaitable qu'elles soient faites là où elles doivent être faites et nulle part ailleurs. Bien sûr on peut faire les propositions que l'on veut, mais si on veut être efficace, opérationnel et utile, il convient de faire des propositions là où elles doivent l'être.

Je donnerai tout d'abord la parole au Conseiller spécial du Directeur général pour les problèmes d'environnement et de développement durable, le Dr Bommer fera part de ses avis et considérations sur ce document et sur la façon dont le Comité du Programme a abordé cette question importante.

P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général/Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable): Le document CL 102/6: Activités de la FAO relatives à l'environnement et au développement durable, est le quatrième d'une série de rapports présentés aux organes directeurs de la FAO à la suite de la Recommandation 3/89 de la Conférence de 1989 qui demandait à l'Organisation de renforcer ses activités dans ce vaste domaine de l'environnement et du développement durable, et de participer activement à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement durable.

Je rappellerai brièvement la trajectoire que nous avons suivie et l'itinéraire qui va se poursuivre.

Nous avons fait un premier compte rendu au Conseil en novembre 1990. En 1991, l'importante Conférence de Bois-le-Duc, organisée par la FAO avec le concours des Pays-Bas, avait établi les principes directeurs et les lignes d'action principales pour ce qu'on appelle désormais l'ADRD: "l'agriculture et le développement rural durables".

En juin 1991, le Conseil avait approuvé les recommandations de la Conférence de Bois-le-Duc et avait demandé que l'on élabore un programme-cadre de coopération internationale, pour l'ADRD.

Pendant l'été 1991 s'est tenue la troisième réunion du Comité Préparatoire de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement (la CNUED) et à cette séance les propositions qu'avait faites la FAO pour qu'on inclue un chapitre sur l'ADRD dans le Plan d'action, qui s'appelle maintenant Plan "Action 21", avaient été acceptées. Je pense qu'il est important de rappeler parce qu'au départ l'agriculture n'était pas explicitement à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence de Rio.

La Conférence de la FAO quant à elle, en novembre 1991, avait décidé lors de sa discussion sur les plans à moyen terme que l'environnement et le développement durable seraient l'une des grandes priorités de l'Organisation dans son Plan à Moyen Terme et dans le Programme de travail et budget 1994-95 et - le Président vient de le rappeler - la Conférence, dans la Résolution 2/91, avait formulé trois requêtes spécifiques au Secrétariat.

La première requête était d'introduire d'une manière systématique des critères de durabilité dans tous les programmes et activités de la FAO - Programme ordinaire et programmes de terrain. La deuxième requête était de poursuivre le processus déjà amorcé de rationalisation des programmes d'action spéciaux de la FAO. La troisième requête était de participer encore plus activement à la Conférence de Rio.

Compte tenu de ces trois requêtes, le document dont vous êtes saisis a trois parties. Dans la première partie, nous rendons compte d'activités très diverses qui, en quelque sorte, s'adressent aux défis très complexes de la durabilité du développement agricole. Il s'agit d'un processus graduel de réflexion qui est engagé à tous les niveaux de l'Organisation et qui concerne toutes les facettes du développement durable. Nous en présentons les premiers résultats mais, ce qui est peut-être plus important que les diverses activités présentées, c'est la façon dont le personnel du Secrétariat a modifié sa perception des problèmes et s'est engagé à relever ces nouveaux défis par une meilleure coopération - et une meilleure coordination interne et aussi avec d'autres institutions, notamment pour la préparation et le suivi de la CNUED. Ces changements sont obtenus grâce, notamment, au travail de sensibilisation et de formation du personnel de l'Organisation, sous l'égide du Groupe de travail interdépartemental, sous la présidence de Monsieur Zehni, qui est à mes côtés et de nombreuses équipes multidisciplinaires connexes.

Je voudrais signaler, dans ce contexte, que nous avons présenté à Rio un bilan sur plus de vingt ans d'activités dans ces domaines de l'environnement et du développement durable, sous la forme d'un livre blanc. Ce document sera disponible dans les trois langues très prochainement; il est disponible en anglais en dehors de cette salle.

La deuxième partie du document traite de la rationalisation des programmes d'action spéciaux de la FAO (PAS). Ce processus qui, comme je l'ai dit, a été engagé il y a un certain temps, a été conduit parallèlement à l'élaboration de l'"Action 21" de la CNUED dans les mêmes domaines. De ce fait, l'Organisation s'est préparée à jouer le rôle qui lui revient dans le suivi de cette grande Conférence.

Les programmes d'action spéciaux présentés dans leurs grandes lignes au paragraphe 48 du document correspondent étroitement à certaines rubriques du programme "Action 21" qui sont présentées dans l'Annexe 1 du document, et notamment au chapitre 14 sur l'ADRD, ainsi qu'aux chapitres 11 et 17 du programme "Action 21" respectivement sur les forêts et les pêches. Le processus de rationalisation des PAS est mené par une équipe spéciale composée des Sous-directeurs généraux concernés, sous la présidence de M. Hjort, Directeur-général adjoint.

Nous attendons les résultats d'une autre conférence - celle qui se tiendra au mois de décembre, sur la nutrition - pour terminer ce processus. Vous noterez toutefois que ce processus dépasse le cadre initial de l'agriculture au sens étroit et englobe aussi des activités concernant les pêches et les forêts.

Cela avait été demandé par nos organes directeurs et devrait aboutir à des programmes et des projets pluridisciplinaires, mieux intégrés avec le Programme ordinaire et appuyés par des équipes inter-départementales.

Si le Conseil approuvait les propositions contenues dans la deuxième partie de ce document, le Directeur général, tenant compte des avis et recommandations du Conseil, poursuivrait ce processus et ferait des propositions plus détaillées à la Conférence de 1993.

En ce qui concerne la CNUED, les principaux résultats de la Conférence de Rio concernant la FAO sont présentés dans la troisième partie du document. Il nous a évidemment fallu choisir parmi les très nombreux aspects qui intéressent l'Organisation, comme le montre l'inventaire des rubriques qui sont présentées dans l'annexe I du document. Je voudrais souligner que c'est le Directeur général lui-même qui a conduit la délégation de l'Organisation à Rio, avec quatre Sous-directeurs généraux. Nous sommes satisfaits de ce que les intérêts des secteurs alimentaire, agricole, forestier et pêches ont été largement traités par la CNUED et que les documents adoptés reflètent largement les points de vue avancés par l'Organisation dans ces domaines.

Il nous faut regretter, toutefois, que les moyens financiers mobilisés à Rio soient loin d'être à la hauteur des ambitions du programme "Action 21" et des conventions internationales sur le climat et la biodiversité ainsi que des principes directeurs concernant les forêts qui ont aussi été approuvés par la Conférence. Heureusement, nous voulons l'espérer, le mécanisme de suivi, à savoir la Commission du développement durable, organe inter-gouvernemental qui sera établi dans le cadre de l'ECOSOC par l'Assemblée générale, à sa présente session, devrait avoir pour mission de veiller à la mobilisation des ressources financières. J'y reviendrai dans un instant.

Le document qui vous est présenté a été préparé au mois d'août 1992. Je voudrais y apporter quelques compléments d'information. Sur le plan interne, nous avons eu les Conférences régionales, notamment celles de l'Europe et de l'Afrique, qui ont appuyé l'action de la FAO pour le suivi de la CNUED. Je voudrais également signaler que le Directeur-général a donné instruction à chaque unité de l'Organisation d'analyser les implications du programme "Action 21" pour la préparation du Programme de travail et budget 1994-95.

Autre nouveau développement: nous avons réuni récemment les représentants de la FAO dans les pays et ils ont reçu un "briefing" extensif et très complet sur le suivi de la CNUED par la FAO et sur le plan de la coopération et de la coordination interagences.

J'attire l'attention du Conseil sur la dernière phrase du document. Le Directeur général a présenté le 20 octobre au Comité administratif de coordination (CAC) le rapport de l'Equipe spéciale du CAC dont il a assuré la présidence à la demande du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies; le CAC en a approuvé les recommandations, et notamment l'établissement d'un Comité interagences pour le développement durable dont la FAO sera membre avec d'autres institutions du Système des Nations Unies pour coordonner le suivi de la CNUED. Celui-ci devrait se réunir au plus tôt pour faire son premier rapport au CAC dès sa session d'avril 1993. Le CAC a aussi préparé, sur la base des propositions de cette Equipe spéciale présidée par le Directeur général, une déclaration qui informe l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies des dispositions prises et qui souligne l'importance des besoins de

financement. Cette déclaration est maintenant à l'examen de la présente session de l'Assemblée générale.

Parallèlement - et là je reviens sur la question du financement - la FAO a engagé des consultations avec les institutions responsables du Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM) et avec le PNUD pour le nouveau programme que le PNUD lance, qui s'appelle "Capacité 21", visant au renforcement des capacités nationales pour la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action de Rio. Ces consultations ont été engagées par la FAO afin que des ressources additionnelles de financement permettent d'appuyer des projets nationaux n'intéressant pas seulement les Ministères de l'environnement mais aussi les Ministères chargés de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, des forêts, des pêches, c'est-à-dire des domaines qui intéressent le mandat de l'Organisation.

Enfin, la FAO a contribué aux débats de la présente session de l'Assemblée Générale sur la négociation d'une convention internationale sur la désertification et la sécheresse. C'était une recommandation de la Conférence de Rio. Nous avons donc participé à ce débat et, à sa demande, j'ai rencontré à ce sujet le Groupe africain. Nous nous attendons à ce que la FAO soit appelée à apporter sa contribution comme elle l'a fait pour la Convention sur la diversité biologique.

En terminant, je dirai que le Directeur général souhaiterait particulièrement entendre les avis du Conseil sur ce rapport, et notamment sur deux points: sur le suivi de la CNUED dans le cadre de la préparation, qui est déjà engagée, du Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation pour 1994-95 dans les domaines qui sont mentionnés, en particulier, aux paragraphes 69 et 70 du document; et aussi sur le processus de rationalisation des Programmes d'action spéciaux. Je rappelle qu'il s'agit là d'un processus qui avait été lancé par l'Organisation, il y a cinq ans. Il en est fait mention aux paragraphes 48 à 53 du document.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement M. Mahler de son exposé introductif particulièrement substantiel. Je me permettrai de faire remarquer que le document a été élaboré en août 1992 et non pas en août 1991. C'est la seule erreur que j'ai relevée.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** Mr Chairman, let me state at the outset my thanks to you for your kind words. I would express my personal pleasure at being back with you at this important Council.

The Programme and Finance Committees considered this Report which had been prepared by the Director-General in its September joint meeting, and they have asked me to report to you briefly on the outcome, which is actually in our joint Report which is with you as document CL 102/17.

A number of my colleagues on the Finance and Programme Committees are among us here. They are certainly ready to assist, and also to correct me if I say something wrong in interpreting their results.

The Committees were satisfied that the Organization is fully committed to, and is in the process of strengthening, its work in the field of environment and sustainable development. It is quite obvious historically as well as in the planning which is being proposed by the Director-General. This is in response

to the FAO Conference on Resolutions 3/89 and 2/91. The Committees expressed their appreciation for the key role played by FAO in both UNCED and its follow-up. In this regard they noted with satisfaction that the Director-General has chaired - as just referred to by Mr Mahler - the Agency Task Force of the ACC, the Administrative Coordinating Committee for the follow-up of UNCED. UNCED has not yet resulted in concrete commitments of additional funds for the implementation of Agenda 21. Consequently, the implications of UNCED for the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget for the contribution FAO should make to national capacity building in developing countries and for inter-agency cooperation and coordination will require close examination of the developments to which Mr Mahler has just referred.

The Report provides a satisfactory picture of how well the Organization is adapting internally to the new challenges of sustainable development. The Committees noted how sustainability criteria are being systematically integrated into FAO's programmes and activities. They particularly welcomed the Organization's efforts to review and streamline the existing Special Action Programmes, ensuring that they all had a well-defined life-time and clear targets related to priority areas within the International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, abbreviated ICPF/SARD. This review process is essential for achieving a more coordinated and effective response to UNCED's Agenda 21, bringing all special action programmes, including those related to forestry and fishery, under the umbrella of the ICPF/SARD.

In essence these are the comments made by both committees, but you will certainly find more in our Joint Report.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** La délégation malgache félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document soumis à notre examen et, bien entendu, elle remercie M. Mahler de la présentation très claire et complète qu'il en a faite.

Nous félicitons aussi M. Bommer, Président du Comité du Programme, pour les commentaires très pertinents qu'il a formulés au nom des membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier au sujet de cette question importante.

Le sujet traité est pour le moins d'actualité et mérite toute notre attention. Pour sa part, le Gouvernement malgache met en oeuvre actuellement un programme d'action environnemental de longue durée: un comité sur l'environnement vient d'être nommé et est attaché au Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural.

Nous nous félicitons de la contribution heureuse de plusieurs pays avec lesquels nous entretenons des relations de coopération très fructueuses et, bien entendu, de l'appui efficace des institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies aux organismes locaux et nationaux, tels que l'Office national de l'environnement et le Centre national de recherche sur l'environnement. C'est vous dire combien le Gouvernement malgache attache d'importance à cette question et se félicite donc que le Conseil se penche sur elle actuellement.

Nous convenons avec le Secrétariat que, depuis de nombreuses années déjà, la FAO s'intéresse aux questions de protection de l'environnement, à la gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles et au développement durable. Il nous suffit donc d'intensifier ces actions et de mettre davantage l'accent sur le renforcement de la capacité des pays en développement d'établir leur programme



environnemental, d'élaborer les projets y afférents et de trouver, bien entendu, les moyens nécessaires pour leur mise en oeuvre.

Déjà, à plusieurs occasions, la délégation malgache avait insisté sur la nécessité d'évaluer les coûts supplémentaires occasionnés par la mise en oeuvre des mesures de protection de l'environnement, car il y a des coûts supplémentaires. Il faudra donc les évaluer afin de pouvoir rechercher les financements requis.

Enfin, ma délégation appuie le paragraphe 69 du document CL 102/6 en ce sens que le Programme de travail et budget 1994-95 et le Plan à moyen terme de la FAO devront tenir compte des nouveaux besoins occasionnés par la mise en oeuvre du Programme "Action 21" dans les domaines qui intéressent la FAO.

Il va sans dire que le Secrétariat devra oeuvrer en coopération et en liaison étroite avec les autres institutions du système des Nations Unies et avec tous les partenaires intéressés par une coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du développement agricole durable.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Je remercie M. Mahler de son remarquable exposé, fort clair, et je remercie le Président du Comité du Programme pour ses remarques utiles.

La Conférence de 1989 avait invité l'Organisation à renforcer ses activités dans le domaine de l'environnement et du développement durable; celle de 1991 avait décidé que la FAO devait, d'une part, introduire des critères de durabilité dans ses programmes, d'autre part, renforcer sa coopération avec les autres institutions dans ces domaines.

C'est avec satisfaction que la France accueille le bilan des actions entreprises tel qu'il figure dans le document CL 102/6. Il n'est pas besoin d'insister longuement sur la participation de la FAO à la préparation de la CNUED réunie à Rio en juin 1991; sauf peut-être pour rappeler que le Programme-cadre de coopération internationale pour une agriculture et un développement durables (PCCI/ADRD), mis au point à la Conférence FAO/Pays-Bas tenue à Bois-le-Duc en avril 1991, clé de voûte des Programmes d'action spéciaux de l'Organisation, a été entériné à la CNUED et constitue le chapitre 14 du Programme "Action 21".

La France approuve notamment la priorité donnée par l'Organisation aux activités fondamentales d'évaluation et aux études prospectives ainsi qu'aux services consultatifs en matière de politique et de planification comme exposé aux paragraphes 13 et suivants. Elle est particulièrement satisfaite de l'introduction des notions d'environnement et de développement durable dans les programmes de formation des responsables politiques et des planificateurs; de même, la généralisation des études d'impact des projets, à la suite de la Banque mondiale et du PNUD, est une décision d'importance dont la mise en application concrète entraînera certainement d'intéressantes études méthodologiques dans ces domaines peu connus. La France estime que la FAO entre sur un terrain où elle peut faire la preuve de son excellence, à la condition de s'engager fermement dans la collaboration interdépartementale au sein de ses services, évoquée au paragraphe 27 du document CL 102/6. C'est pourquoi l'effort de rationalisation des PAS doit être poursuivi en concentrant les efforts nationaux de développement, comme il est dit au paragraphe 42, dans cinq domaines clés dont deux d'entre eux ont reçu et

continueront à recevoir un appui particulier de la France dans toutes les instances internationales:

d'une part la conservation et l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles;

d'autre part l'utilisation sans danger des intrants et des technologies en agriculture.

La France, qui a bataillé pour l'adoption des Conventions biodiversité et climat, qui a reçu le Congrès forestier mondial à Paris en 1991, ne ménagera pas son soutien à l'Organisation pour que soit assuré un suivi efficace des programmes alors arrêtés et pour que soient trouvées des solutions équilibrées entre besoins socio-économiques et respect de l'environnement, dans le cadre d'une approche intégrée d'aménagement du territoire.

A cet égard, la France estime que les solutions à ces problèmes vitaux pour la planète et ses populations ne peuvent faire l'économie - et c'est une réflexion de bon sens - d'aborder le thème majeur de la démographie; la France regrette que le document CL 102/6 fasse si maigre part à cette préoccupation fondamentale, seulement soulignée au paragraphe 9 du document, sans laquelle il paraît illusoire de vouloir définir des stratégies globales de production alimentaire équilibrée qui soient réalistes et efficaces.

Dans le même esprit, il est surprenant que ce document ne mette pas le projecteur sur la recherche et l'impérieuse nécessité d'accroître la capacité participative des pays en développement à la recherche régionale et internationale: il est pourtant essentiel que la réflexion innovatrice s'instaure, au contact des problèmes concrets, pour définir les objectifs opérationnels de la recherche entre partenaires responsables du Nord et du Sud; c'est aussi, et peut-être surtout, de là que sortiront les solutions viables dans les domaines clés déjà évoqués parmi lesquels la protection des récoltes, la lutte contre les ravageurs, la conservation des eaux, la restauration de la fertilité des sols, l'utilisation des ressources énergétiques mais aussi dans les domaines fondamentaux des ressources humaines et de la démographie.

Ces questions doivent, de l'avis de la France, être l'objet d'une étroite concertation interinstitutions.

L'importance de la collaboration des institutions du système des Nations Unies n'a pas échappé au Secrétaire général qui a mis en place une équipe spéciale présidée par le Directeur général de la FAO, chargée de faire rapport au Comité administratif de coordination, comme il est rappelé au paragraphe 70 du document. Ceci souligne le rôle exceptionnel de la FAO dans le domaine de la production agricole au sens large et la capacité qui lui est reconnue en matière d'élaboration des stratégies et de pilotage des programmes nationaux qu'il conviendra de mettre en oeuvre.

La France examinera donc avec la plus grande attention les propositions en ce sens qui pourraient émaner de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, comme indiqué par le Secrétariat au paragraphe 69 du document.

La France renouvelle sa confiance dans l'Organisation et sa capacité à mobiliser son potentiel technique et scientifique et à remplir son rôle de forum d'échanges entre pays du Nord et du Sud, entre institutions et bailleurs

de fonds. Elle est prête à mettre au service de cette cause ses propres efforts nationaux dans le domaine des biotechnologies notamment les actions du CIRAD mentionnées lors de la Conférence régionale sur l'Amérique latine, dans le domaine de la lutte contre la désertification avec son initiative d'observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel, dans le domaine de la protection des forêts puisqu'elle appuie pleinement le Programme forestier tropical (PAFT), dans le domaine de la pêche responsable, dans celui de la lutte antiacridienne et de la recherche opérationnelle sur la lutte contre les incendies de forêts.

La délégation française est donc heureuse d'appuyer la procédure d'examen des programmes spéciaux telle que proposée au paragraphe 48 et accordera une attention toute particulière aux résultats des travaux du Comité administratif de coordination mentionnés au paragraphe 79 pour que les conclusions soient reprises au niveau approprié.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** First, I should like to thank the Special Adviser for Environment and Sustainable Development for his interesting introduction, and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for the lucid report. My delegation welcomes the activities of FAO aimed at sustainable development and natural resources protection in all spheres covered by this Organization. Document CL 102/6 reflects the Secretariat's well-founded position shared, I presume, by all member countries, to make contributions as effective and concrete as possible to the follow-up of UNCED which met just six months ago.

Before turning to specific FAO measures, let me outline a few general remarks on the follow-up of UNCED, which has a special meaning to the work of FAO.

The innovative approach made in Rio lies in integrating environment and development - two sides of the same coin. We cannot stress this often enough. This is the major task of the new high level UN Commission for Sustainable Development. It must act as a coordinating link between all members of the United Nations family, national governments and representatives of the nongovernmental sector.

My Government is therefore in favour and is striving to ensure that this commission also comes together at ministerial level during its yearly meetings. We need to translate real results promptly into practical action.

For my delegation there are the following priorities. First, the immediate ratification and prompt start of the Conventions on Climate Change and on Biodiversity. They must prove to be dynamic instruments to further worldwide cooperation in combating serious global problems. We shall strengthen our cooperation with developing countries as well as with the countries of Eastern Europe and the CIS to help them also to make a prompt start in the implementation of these Conventions. To this end we will allocate DM 10 million in additional funds in 1993 for short-term programmes for the rapid implementation of both Conventions.

Secondly, new forms of international economic relations are necessary to improve living conditions. For the people in developing countries it is necessary to strengthen and to make full use of their own capacities rather than that they should be recipients of external support. Therefore, we must continue to break down trade barriers and open up our markets.

Thirdly, new economic behaviour and new living patterns: an essential element of sustainable economic behaviour and sustainable living patterns lies primarily in changes to our own behaviour as producers and consumers. We, the industrialized countries, have a particular responsibility in this regard given the major part we play in global environmental damage. Only by gearing in particular economic energy, transport and agricultural policy towards the principle of sound environmental practice will it be possible to achieve sustainable development.

Fourthly, sustainable development cannot be achieved without a responsible population policy. My neighbour, the Representative of France, stressed for good reasons the necessity of giving demographic questions a special importance in the work of the Organization.

Fifthly, technical cooperation, the spreading of knowledge and capacity building: modern environmentally sound technologies must increasingly be used throughout the world, in particular in the field of energy and transport and in agricultural production. Enlarging the institutional and technical capacities, in particular in developing countries, for choosing and applying suitable and adaptive technologies is therefore a major element in German bilateral cooperation in the field of environment and development.

Sixthly, and not lastly, adequate financial support of these activities: in Rio the Federal Chancellor, Dr Kohl, made clear our determination to live up to our responsibility for the developing countries. In spite of the exceptional situation in the wake of German unification and our extremely large contribution to the process of reconstruction in the East of our country, we will make every effort to do justice to the financial commitment made in Rio. We continue to support the tripling of the volume of the global environmental facilities combined with a fair burden sharing. The ongoing restructuring of the global environment facility should be concluded promptly, including in particular an adequate participation of developing countries in terms of decision making.

We are also prepared for the provision of further relief within the framework of debt servicing agreements of the Paris Club if the resources thus released are made available for measures to protect and maintain the environment.

Let me now turn to specific issues which we expect FAO to act upon concerning Item 7 of our Agenda. The Agenda 21 programme areas in Annex 1 of document CL 102/6 are a checklist of great relevance to FAO's programmes and also a reminder to member countries - developed and developing nations alike - for UNCED implementation.

The knowledge and awareness of the negative consequences of intensive and onesided unbalanced agricultural practices on climate and on natural resources in particular soil, water, forests and others, including plant and animal genetic resources - have increased, but also technical possibilities have grown to remedy inadequate management systems and to bring environment and agricultural land use into better harmony.

My Government endorses the Director-General's decision to incorporate his Special Adviser for Environment and Sustainable Development into the Special Task Force for, among other things, streamlining the special action programmes. Hopefully, the Special Adviser will be assisted in the performance

of his duties by an adequate number of FAO staff, despite the existing constraints.

In our view, any new FAO programme should be subjected, from the very outset, to sustainability evaluation. Likewise, the new programmes must respond flexibly to the peculiarities of the respective recipient country. They should provide for sustainable, ecologically bearable farming in variable forms, going from subsistence farming to more intensive agriculture.

Following UNCED, my country strongly advocates steps by FAO resulting in a closer cooperation between the departments and the Special Adviser of FAO with other international agencies.

The approach taken for the adjustment or streamlining of the Special Action Programmes (SAPs) is principally supported by my country.

Let me make some reference to the Tropical Forest Action Programme (TFAP) dealt with in paragraph 33. My country favours its further intensive implementation and backstopping. Not only the Forestry Department but also other departments and divisions and the Special Adviser of FAO should give active support to this vital programme. However, we see with a certain hesitation the idea of devising new TFAP guidelines. We regard the "operational principles" as they are, a valid basis for work even after UNCED. Continuity and effective implementation should have preference to the elaboration of new terms of reference.

As to the UNCED follow-up, my Government is in principal agreement with what is said in paragraphs 69 and 70. At the same time we would like FAO to ensure the following: still in 1993, the relevant FAO bodies should also actively take up the discussion in those sectors where an active debate on the follow-up has already started, as, for example, in the forest area.

**Carlos BASCO (Argentina):** La delegación argentina apoya el documento presentado en el marco de la política de la institución para integrar criterios de sostenibilidad en todos sus programas y actividades y expresa especial interés por el estudio en curso "Agricultura: Hacia el año 2010", en tanto a que permitirá dimensionar los desafíos para la FAO respecto de hacer frente a las nuevas condiciones de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Se exhorta al Director General para que estas actividades se desarrollen en estrecha colaboración con el PNUD y el PNUMA, recordando que la sostenibilidad y el medio ambiente constituyen una dimensión más del tema de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Se da especial apoyo a la participación de la FAO en calidad de observador en el Grupo de Trabajo del GATT sobre las medidas ambientales y el comercio internacional.

También se apoya la participación de la FAO en 73 de las 115 áreas del Programa 21 de la CNUMAD.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** FAO staff are to be thanked for a particularly thorough report of actions to incorporate sustainable development into programmes and activities. My thanks also go to Mr Mahler for his informative introduction.

As a member of the Programme Committee, I was aware of FAO's activities covered in this report in September of this year. I would like to stress the importance we place on sustainable development and environment. We would hope that it remains a high priority for FAO and in its Programme of Work. As a member of the Programme Committee, we will be endeavouring to ensure that it does. We hope that this priority is reflected in the Medium-Term Programme.

Australia was generally satisfied with the outcomes from UNCED. While some outcomes did not match completely with our desired results and some of the language in the documents was not as rigorous, or as unqualified, as we would have liked, we recognize that UNCED was a consensus process designed to find solutions through negotiation and compromise. Australia, along with many others here, worked constructively and actively towards achieving those consensus outcomes.

Of particular importance is the fact that UNCED was successful in establishing a process for further global cooperation on environment and development issues. We recognize that the Rio Conference was only the first stage in that process.

Australia is committed to sustainable development nationally and reports submitted to government by a number of Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Groups, including the report on sustainable development in the agricultural sector, which are under consideration. Strategies arising from government consideration of the ESD Working Group recommendations are expected to be released shortly.

Much of the focus of FAO's work in the area of sustainable development and the environment is closely linked to Agenda 21. Australia recognizes FAO's significant contribution to Agenda 21. We endorse Agenda 21 and believe it provides a sound basis for FAO to plan future action in the priority areas identified.

Australia supports the action being taken by FAO as reported in the Agenda Paper in relation to sustainable development and the environment, and the further action proposed.

**P.R. JANUS (Netherlands):** I would first like to join others in thanking Dr Mahler for his introduction and, in particular, for the information that he provided on the events which have occurred since the document was drawn up. I would also like to thank Dr Bommer for his clarification of the views of the Programme Committee.

It will come as no surprise to this Council that the Netherlands attaches great importance to sustainable development and environment and the role that FAO can play in this area.

In our view sustainable agriculture, in the broadest sense of the word, and rural development is really the heart of the matter when we talk about development. It is now generally recognized that sustainability and

environmental protection are simply prerequisites for any acceptable sort of economic and social development. The difficulty in dealing with various aspects of this core issue is that they are all so closely related.

One sometimes gets the feeling that when we consider the different topics on our agenda they are all so closely linked that we really look at the same thing but from a different angle every time.

Sustainable agriculture, responsible fishing, gender issues, people's participation, food security, nutrition, conservation of biological diversity, development of human resources, etc., etc., they are all facets of the same diamond: sustainable development.

This fact will, in our view, warrant a holistic approach to FAO's mandate.

Establishing interlinkages between all these aspects, part and parcel of our central effort to bring about sustainable development, will therefore be of crucial importance.

We have carefully studied the document on this subject and would like to express our general appreciation for its content. It is important that FAO, after making a start with the translation of the outcome of the Den Bosch Conference by presenting the ICPF/SARD to the last FAO Conference, has now gone one step further by formulating proposals to streamline existing SAPs and adding a few new ones. This approach will ensure that practically the whole of FAO will be involved in the follow-up of UNCED.

Let me first make a few observations on the concept of Special Action Programmes. In the view of my Government these programmes can play an important role in the fulfilment of FAO's mandate. In their funding these programmes rely on various sources, partly extra-budgetary. In our view the importance of Special Action Programmes lies in the way they can address the issues for which they are created. They should not primarily be seen as a way to mobilize extra-budgetary resources. However, in so far as they do make use of extra-budgetary contributions, the obvious disadvantage is that the oversight of the governing bodies is limited. This does also apply to other extra-budgetary financing. The imminent danger is that they hinder the implementation of the Regular Programme. Therefore, it is considered of utmost importance that coordination between Special Action Programmes and the Regular Programme is assured. In this connection the Netherlands has proposed in the past on several occasions the establishment of a Field Programme Committee. My delegation would like to reaffirm its position on this matter and suggest that the possibility of creating a Field Programme Committee is being put on the agenda of the next Council for discussion.

Special Action Programmes follow in general a sectoral approach. It is important, however, that they take into account the specific needs and circumstances in the countries for which they are meant. In all cases good coordination and integration is important. The proposals for integration of policy areas, streamlining and better coordination could, in our view, still be somewhat improved. It is indeed important, as mentioned in paragraph 49, that management and operation of Special Action Programmes take place at the level of Division Directors and Assistant Directors-General. A Steering Committee should, by its very nature, supervise more than one Special Action Programme starting within one division.

In this connection I would like to refer to the Agricultural Production Systems approach that has been elaborated in upon joint cooperation between FAO and the Netherlands. Such a programmatic approach, for which a proposal of FAO is now under consideration in the Netherlands, should do justice to existing cross-sectoral relations both at Headquarters as well as in the field. Finally, concerning the streamlining of Special Action Programmes, my delegation should like to suggest not to establish a separate Special Action Programme for human resources development but rather to incorporate this aspect in other Special Action Programmes.

The document provides a rather general review of activities where environmental and sustainable development criteria play a role. It is proposed to apply the procedures for environmental impact assessment in the formulation of field projects. A next step will have to be that specific criteria be developed for Special Action Programmes. It is somewhat surprising that so far no specific methods of screening on environmental protection has been introduced. My delegation would like to urge FAO to develop these methods as soon as possible. In this connection my delegation also noted with disappointment that, and I quote now from document CL 102/13 which will be discussed under Item 11, "Work on the application of environmental impact assessment procedures and guidance to field staff, as well as in-service training and preparation of environmental and sustainability guidelines for TCP, Trust Fund and UNDP projects has come to a virtual standstill". We hope that this work can be resumed some time in the near future.

A final point in conclusion concerning the conservation of biodiversity. My country attaches great importance to this subject. Although this subject is mentioned in paragraph 65, the document, in our view, somewhat under-exposes the important role that FAO has to play in the implementation of this programme area in developing countries.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais vous conseiller la lecture de l'article XXV du Règlement. Le point 7 de cet article - j'y ai déjà fait allusion à deux ou trois reprises - vous donne toute la procédure à suivre pour l'inscription d'un point à l'ordre du jour de notre Conseil, même au cours des activités de ce Conseil.

**Christodoulos CHRISTODOULOU (Cyprus):** It has become evident that in order for agricultural systems to achieve sustainability one needs to take a closer look into those agricultural systems that have been successful and consider the reasons for the drawbacks of others. This approach should help us develop environmentally sound practices in modern agriculture.

As a general rule, it cannot be denied that current agricultural technology offers us answers to the need to increase food production.

Simultaneously, however, this same technology should be examined from its environmental aspects as well. This is the only way to reach the proper blend between the objectives of achieving environmentally sound development and of meeting the pressing obligation of the human race to put an end to starvation and reduce malnutrition. FAO has an unequivocal commitment to sustainable agriculture and food development, and I am confident that our Organization will assist its Member Nations to respond to the aspirations of their people



and to alter the relationships between man and the systems from which he extracts his food and fibre.

In Cyprus we fully share the concern that the prevailing inequalities and deficiencies in the global food production, trade and distribution systems are associated with ecological stress and environmental destruction at rates which, unless reversed, will have irreversible consequences on the resource base upon which agriculture relies.

In this respect, we have endorsed the principles of sustainable development and have taken action to integrate the goals of environmental conservation into those of our economic and social policy. We have also initiated policies in order to ameliorate those aspects of development policy that may not be fully in line with the principles of sustainable development. FAO's efforts to integrate sustainability criteria throughout its wide range of programmes coincides with this policy of ours and we applaud the action-oriented programme evolved by our Organization.

The land and water resources policies of my country are aimed at the rational management of these assets. Our policies are pursued through structural, developmental and financial measures to further reorganize agricultural production, expand the use of appropriate technology and raise standards of living. They are simultaneously aimed at the rational and prudent utilization and conservation of our natural wealth and the protection of the environment.

Food security policies and measures are well developed, supplemented by applied agricultural research and a comprehensive crop insurance scheme. A wide range of environment related measures in the broad sectors of agricultural and rural development are implemented.

Based on our experience, we have no reservation in giving our full support to FAO's efforts in integrating environment and sustainable development criteria in special field programmes and projects. Once again, our Organization leads the way in meeting one of the most important challenges of our generation, a challenge that involves a radical reorientation not only of our policies but of the ways of approaching the problems as well. On the way to Rio, my country participated at the den Bosch and Bridgetown Conferences and has fully appreciated the FAO's initiatives to assist Member countries achieve sustainable agricultural and rural development. We can also attest to our Organization's active involvement at Rio and are encouraged by FAO's concrete plans for the road from Rio.

I wish, therefore, to congratulate all those dedicated international civil servants and national and other experts and consultants on the assiduous and valuable work they have done in the preparation of the Rio Conference and beyond. We face a formidable task especially if we consider that, as pointed out in the paper under discussion, the majority of Agenda 21's programme areas are relevant to FAO's programmes. In these efforts, I would like to assure you that we shall assist our Organization to promote the policy issues mentioned in the preparatory document.

The document calls for a multisectoral and integrated approach and it is imperative for it to cover the environment, economic, cultural, social, political, technology adaptation, settlement, manpower and international issues of sustainable agricultural and rural development.

It is important to take into account that such issues are closely interrelated and, therefore, rationalizing the Special Action Programmes offers us a unique opportunity to comprehensively tackle the various problems. Within this context, transfer of appropriate technology and know-how and access to financial resources of the countries in need are indispensable requirements for the success of their efforts to integrate environmental considerations into development policies and practices. The development of country-specific criteria for prioritizing environmental problems and capacity enhancement is of particular priority. Also, as women are a formidable resource, field projects at the household level should be specifically addressed to them, their needs and their concerns.

However, in these collective efforts of ours, we should not lose sight of the fact that raising food production is one of the most pressing and priority problems the world community is called to address and action on this issue should continue and be expanded on all fronts.

For we can achieve little until we safeguard stable incomes to farmers, alleviate skewed income distribution and other inequalities, allow for sustainable improvement of human life, and have a supportive international economic environment. On the latter issue, I wish to highlight the call to consider in detail the links between trade and the environment, with which we are in full agreement.

We are all well aware that social systems do not change course easily. The way is long and arduous, and despite the progress made and the efforts which are on the way, a lot has yet to be done. But, every time we unite and act with commitment and determination, we have proved that the course can be altered.

**Mats DENNINGER (Sweden):** It is our opinion that the UN Conference on the Environment and Development was a success and a milestone in international cooperation. Although in some respects the results could have been more far-reaching, through the Rio Declaration the more than 180 participating countries have committed themselves to a transition to sustainable development. Sustainable development, entailing a development within the limits of the carrying capacity of the earth's ecosystems, has now been firmly established as a multilaterally agreed objective for the international community. Agenda 21, the action plan agreed at UNCED, is a blueprint for achieving this objective.

The implementation of actions within the framework of Agenda 21 must primarily be a national responsibility, with a major emphasis on activities at the local level. In the future, a transition to sustainable development must permeate all functions in society and guide national policy development in all sectors. The sectoral responsibility, both nationally and internationally, for sustainable development is underlined in Agenda 21.

In this context, FAO activities will play a major role in the international follow-up process. It is a great challenge for the Organization and entirely in line with the strengthening of the normative role of all UN specialized agencies which we have been advocating as a central part of the reform of the UN system. We notice from the document prepared by the Secretariat that almost two-thirds of all the programme areas of Agenda 21 are relevant for FAO's activities and we take it that FAO's contributions to the UNCED follow-up process will be as competent and wide-ranging as its contributions to the

UNCED preparations. We also take it for granted that the truly global character of Agenda 21 will be reflected in all follow-up work, especially concerning sustainable agriculture. Needless to say, we expect smooth cooperation with other organizations, strict application of comparative advantages and an optimal use of available resources.

The general approach reflected in the document does not fully recognize that sustainable development calls for an approach that puts emphasis on long-term, qualitative aspects of production and environment. More attention is needed not only to policy advice and evaluation, which are important aspects, but also to technical issues, especially at the field level. The UNCED decisions mean that new production-methods have to be created to achieve sustainable development. To clarify what sustainable development implies at a practical level - in developing as well as in developed countries - it is important to speed up progress in the area.

The more precise implications of these considerations for FAO's future programme of work will be the subject of discussion next year. On this occasion, however, I would like - on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden - to indicate some areas where FAO efforts seem particularly urgent and which in different ways contribute to the overriding objective of the Organization, namely to safeguard the long-term, global food situation against the background of rapid population growth.

The first area concerns eradication of poverty which was a central issue within the whole UNCED process. The relationship between poverty and unsustainable use of natural resources has been recognized already in the Brundtland report and further stressed in the UNCED process. There are two particularly critical aspects in this regard. One concerns the use of land and water. We consider it essential to apply an integrated approach, paying attention to access to both land and water. The other aspect is the participation of local communities in decision-making and in the implementation of programmes. Through the whole UNCED process the Nordic countries have emphasized local participation and the idea that all decisions should be taken at the lowest appropriate level.

Desertification was thoroughly discussed at Rio and was regarded as of vital importance to developing countries. As a result of UNCED, negotiations on a convention to combat desertification are expected to start soon. Agenda 21 includes a chapter on desertification which will form the basis for the negotiations but there will also be a need for substantive support and input from relevant UN agencies, including FAO.

The second area of my remarks concerns plant genetic resources which, together with animal genetic resources, are a critical portion of the global biological diversity. All crops form part of biodiversity. These genetic resources form the basis for improving crops, increasing yields and for achieving genetic resistance to pests and diseases. Plant genetic resources are thus of critical significance to FAO's most pressing objective; i.e. to ensure global food security. But the threats to these resources are growing in important respects. The replacement of land races is leading to genetic erosion. Habitat destruction is causing losses of the wild relatives of crops. Present efforts to conserve, develop and use the genetic diversity are insufficient.

Major decisions on national and international cooperation and action regarding plant genetic resources were taken at UNCED; inter alia in a separate

programme area under Chapter 14 of Agenda 21 on "Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development". The ambition of this programme area is high and a new and broader approach to plant breeding is envisaged, including a new emphasis on the local farmers. What is aimed at is plant breeding compatible with sustainable agriculture, stressing action to preserve soil, water and biological diversity and calling for farming methods which are less chemical and energy intensive.

The main objective of this programme area concerns in situ on farm and ex situ conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, integrated into strategies and programmes for sustainable agriculture. Action to promote the achievement of this main objective will be a major task for the preparatory process of the Fourth Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in 1995. An ambitious process is foreseen in the project documents now being prepared which should mobilize national action, including capacity and institution-building and action for the development of human resources.

The first global plan of action on these important matters should be based on the active involvement by governments in a country-driven preparatory process. The Global Environmental Facility, through its "tranche" on biological diversity, should be utilized, and the World Bank and the regional development banks should be invited to support national and regional preparations of developing countries in order to develop targeted and costed programmes of action. The aim should be to adopt a global plan of action that will be able to mobilize the resources needed for its implementation in all countries. The Nordic countries will be considering in a positive way the scope of their support for the preparation for the Conference and, in particular, efforts to promote the participation of developing countries.

The Convention on Biological Diversity has now been negotiated, and we hope it will enter into force not later than the end of 1993. It will embrace both wild and domesticated species, including plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In our view, it is essential that one of the most important economic sectors responsible for its implementation - I refer to agriculture - is actively involved in its own "turf". The time is now ripe to start the renegotiation of the FAO Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources with a view to achieving a binding international instrument. Such an instrument should have close links to the Convention on Biological Diversity, one option being an independent protocol with its own governing body and secretariat.

The Nordic Governments would recommend that the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at its session in 1995 act as the preparatory committee for the Fourth Technical Conference. We furthermore suggest that the Working Group of the Commission will perform a guiding and monitoring role for the preparatory process, based on a precise mandate from the Committee, to be decided at its session next year.

Coming now to forestry, my third area of remarks, we recognize the valuable contributions to the UNCED process by FAO in support of the efforts by governments to develop the global forest principles and the chapter on forests in Agenda 21, which provide a solid platform for decisive action by all countries to move toward sustainable use, conservation and management of all types of forests. Based on national sovereignty and responsibility over natural resources, countries should develop, implement and review, in a transparent way, national policies and programmes in accordance with the global objectives and principles agreed on in Rio.

Efforts by developing countries should be supported by a generous and efficient international development cooperation financed in accordance with the UNCED decisions and based on long-term country-driven processes, replacing short-term donor-driven projects. Major efforts must initially be directed toward capacity-building, human resources development and institution-building. A reformed Tropical Forest Action Programme should be an active part of international development cooperation in support of national action for the implementation of the forest principles and the commitments in Agenda 21.

The international follow-up should also include exchange of information between countries of experience gained in the implementation of the UNCED decisions on forests. In our view, this dialogue should primarily take place at the regional level and be based on national reporting. In line with Rio provisions that the international follow-up should be based on existing institutions, we would suggest that this task is entrusted to FAO's Regional Forestry Commissions, taking into account the useful contributions that could be made by other organizations such as ITTO, the International Tropical Timber Organization. A global exchange of experience could take place in the FAO Committee on Forestry, possibly meeting more often than at present, as well as in ITTO with regard to tropical forests. Later on a major global stocktaking of the implementation of the forest principles should take place in a thematic review by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Finally concerning fisheries, the Nordic countries - and here I am speaking on behalf of those three that are not members of the EEC - are of the opinion that there are three events which will be influencing the work of FAO in coming years: the meeting on responsible fisheries held in Cancún in May, then UNCED in June and finally the FAO Technical Consultation on high seas fishing held in September. We note with appreciation that FAO in its advisory function has prepared most of the background papers for all three meetings.

Of the twelve Special Action Programmes linked to Agenda 21 and proposed in the document, two concern fisheries: one on responsible and sustainable fisheries, the other on human resources development, including artisanal fisheries. But, in view of the importance of coastal zones for food production, both in the developing and in the developed world, it is our view that integrated management of coastal areas should also be a Special Action Programme, in which the views of agriculture and forestry are considered, together with those of fisheries. FAO's unique access to expertise in many different fields within its walls would in this way be fully exploited. This is particularly the case for small islands, and we support the view in Agenda 21 that their managers and scientists should have a cross-sectoral training in coastal management.

The need for a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing is widely recognized. We note with satisfaction the ongoing preparatory work by FAO. In this regard we find that the precautionary approach as recommended in the Rio Declaration's Principle 15, and which will be an important element of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, should be elaborated and discussed scientifically in order to increase its usefulness.

An issue which by its nature is part of any Code of Conduct is reflagging of fishing vessels. We have noted the great concern expressed by the recent Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing and would prefer that this issue be treated with urgency and separate from other elements of the Code and in close consultation with other relevant bodies.

Finally, the Nordic countries would like to recall that in chapter 38 of Agenda 21 the specialized agencies are invited to consider ways of strengthening and adjusting activities and programmes in line with Agenda 21. We would therefore urge that the Secretariat should include the follow-up of Agenda 21 when starting the preparation of the PWB for the next biennium and in the biennial revision of the Medium-Term Plan.

**Ms Katalin BAKK (Hungary):** The document reporting on FAO activities related to sustainable development and environment was read with great interest by my delegation. We have found that the activities and programmes touched upon constitute a cross-section of the Organization's top priorities and that the major emphasis to be put on sustainable development and environment-friendly production do not really bring up new tasks for either the Regular Programme or Special Action Programmes. It is felt that FAO has for long been dealing with the most important agricultural issues along the lines called for under the umbrella of the new initiatives.

I hope these opening remarks do not convey the impression that we deem the efforts just reported to us to be superfluous. On the contrary, it is our considered belief that the integration of sustainability criteria into all programmes and activities is both desirable and fruitful.

The cross-fertilization between various programmes and special action programmes might itself bring about a major attention to the problems of sustainable agriculture, for we feel that there are hardly any activities within this organization which would neglect the management and conservation of natural resources and programmes specifically geared to such goals.

While appreciating indeed the lucid and valuable presentation on this agenda item, there are two points this delegation would like to raise.

The streamlining of special action programmes has been made the centre of attention. The document lists rightly nearly all SAPs as being an integral part of endeavours for sustainable development. In paragraph 41 mention was made of the review of all existing and proposed SAPs and recommendations were considered as to "the programmes to be abolished, those to be retained in modified form, those to be retained without change, and those to be established". I am afraid I was not able to find any references to programmes which had been found unnecessary and those earmarked for being abolished. Even taking into consideration that the review of Special Action Programmes is not yet fully completed (paragraph 48), I cannot help feeling that at least some hints ought to have been made at these programmes in order to present a fully balanced paper.

The other remarks my delegation would like to offer refer to UNCED. The report before us states that approximately two-thirds of Agenda 21 are relevant for FAO's programmes. Quite frankly, I feel that this is an understatement, and development of agriculture, in its broadest sense, covers somewhat more than two-thirds of this agenda. Unfortunately, UNCED resolutions and action programmes have so far not trickled down to national agricultural authorities. It is also for this reason that we heartily welcome the report before us, namely because of its constituting another vector through which FAO could contribute to national efforts to put more emphasis in their agricultural policies on environment-friendly agricultural development and other programmes directly or indirectly supporting sustainable development. It has frankly to

be admitted that Hungary is also in need of a more sustainability-conscious approach to agricultural development, and a continuous reporting on these issues would be helpful.

**Shahid RASHID (Pakistan):** The delegation of Pakistan has noted with keen interest the progress which is being made and the measures which have been taken by FAO to translate its commitment to sustainable development and environment into its concrete programmes. Although it is not an entirely new agenda, it is gratifying for us to see that sustainable development has now won universal recognition as the central focus of the developmental process. The added emphasis given to this concept at UNCED held in Rio in June this year, particularly by Agenda 21 in its chapter 14 on sustainable agricultural and rural development, deserves special mention.

In continuing to stress that development of natural resources should be environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable, we need also to educate ourselves, our policy-makers and programme formulators, our project implementers and field operators, as well as the general public. We require to be adequately equipped to make informed and rational decisions which take a balanced view of all the various aspects.

Development of a set of viable indicators for quantitative and qualitative assessment of sustainable development and environment is a vital function. We would like to see such indicators to be framed within both the global and regional contexts. These indicators should be kept continuously under review and closely monitored to assess their impact. It is heartening to note that FAO has taken the lead in this regard. However, it might be worth while closely to collaborate and coordinate with other agencies, as well as with the recipient countries, to develop a methodology which has all the relevant inputs, caters for cross-sectoral spheres and takes into account any country sensitivities. We hope it will be possible for FAO to arrange an expert consultation in the near future for devising such a methodology and framing a set of guiding principles for sustainable development in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other sectors.

We also welcome the efforts being made to streamline the Special Action Programmes. The move to expand the concept of sustainable agricultural and rural development to other areas related to forestry and fishery is also appreciated. It must, however, be mentioned that our national programmes need strengthening through policy advice and programme assistance in critical areas. Involvement of the Community at grass-roots level for integrated rural development is also a key factor and should remain in focus.

The proposal to set up steering committees for the management and operation of Special Action Programmes is a useful one. We would, however, like to see that such steering committees, in addition to reporting to the Governing Bodies, should also make its reports available to the concerned intergovernmental groups and the relevant sectoral committees.

We also greatly commend the very active involvement of FAO and UNCED and we are reassured that there is a great deal of congruence between the respective programme areas. It is also a matter of particular satisfaction for us to note that the Special Task Force of the ACC to follow-up the decisions reached at Rio, is being chaired by the Director-General of FAO.

We would, however, like to stress that the Earth Summit at Rio will be viewed by history as truly epoch-making, not by its grand scale, but by its impact on sustainable development of natural resources and protection of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations. The Rio Summit will truly prove to be a watershed if we see a positive difference in national capacity building and the provision of additional financial resources through appropriate mechanisms. We would urge FAO to play its due role, and by that we mean a leading role, albeit in close cooperation with other UN agencies, to accomplish the goals set forth in Agenda 21 in respect of its mandated areas.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** I wish to thank Mr Mahler, the Special Adviser on the Environment and Sustainable Development, for his informative update on the document. I would also thank Dr Bommer, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for his excellent analysis of the issues.

The Council document CL 102/6 on FAO activities related to sustainable development and environment, details the progress of FAO's efforts to integrate sustainability criteria in its programmes and activities. It also gives details of FAO's contribution to UNCED and analyses the implications of the outcome of UNCED, particularly in relation to Agenda 21.

The progress report presented by FAO on implementation of activities and programmes related to sustainable development and environment indicates that FAO has adopted an integrated multi-disciplinary approach. The activities undertaken by FAO cover a review and formulation of policies and planning, research on methodological tools for sustainability indicators, incorporation of environment and sustainability consideration in existing projects and programmes, along with the creation of new projects, SAPs and the sponsoring of related international conferences/consultations.

In paragraph 17 of the document it has been stated that FAO is participating as an observer in the working group of GATT on Environmental Measures and International Trade. FAO also continues to work with GATT in the context of the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations to improve consumer protection and food trade, to safeguard against any international trade in sub-standard foods and the application of trade barriers unjustifiably based on environmental grounds. Standards must, therefore, be related both to valuations of environmental damage, as well as the cost of abatement. Moreover, ensuring free access to industrial country markets is needed to help developing countries industrialize and grow, and to enable them to take advantage of the non-polluting technologies.

The report, rightly points out the requirements of additional funds to cover cost to deal with global environmental problems, and to accelerate sustainable development. To achieve the development and environmental objectives of Agenda 21, the developing countries especially will require a substantial flow of new and additional funds.

It is perhaps not possible at present to estimate the full costs of making agriculture fully sustainable. Even the total land area under stress is not reliably known. However, large resources are required for the rehabilitation of degraded lands, prevention of soil erosion and farm forestry. Massive investment will also be required for research, extension, training, education and support for agricultural production, infrastructure and afforestation.



Besides, the other requirements foreseen are, for the elimination of poverty, provision of clean water, sanitation and environment-friendly industrialization. All this will require rapid investment, stronger environment institutions, technology transfer, supported by open trade and capital flows.

Within FAO, Special Action Programmes are very important instruments for achieving identified specific objectives in priority areas. The review and streamlining of SAPs in the context of the International Cooperative Programme Framework for sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development would enable FAO to make these programmes of greater direct relevance to achieving specific FAO Regular Programme objectives. The donor countries should provide additional resources to enable SAPs effectively to fill in gaps in the areas of policy advice, planning and programming assistance, rural development, conservation and the rational use of critical natural resources for sustainable development, the safe use of key inputs and technologies. We hope the ongoing review of SAPs will be completed soon and that new SAPs will be launched, flowing from UNCED and the forthcoming ICN, for accelerated yet sustainable development in the areas of agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries.

Sharing the comment of the distinguished Delegate from Hungary, I should like to mention that at the end of the review it would be useful to know which of the ongoing FAO programmes have been dropped, modified or streamlined, and the cost implications of those activities.

Of the 115 programme areas of UNCED's Agenda 21, 73 are supposed to be relevant to FAO's programmes. FAO will need to prioritize its action in collaboration with other UN and international organizations, and ensure a follow-up of their implementation by raising additional resources from developed countries bilaterally and multilaterally, and also from restructured global environmental facilities for capacity building in developing countries and technical cooperation.

**Oscar SALES PETINGA (Portugal):** La délégation portugaise félicite le Dr Mahler de la manière remarquable dont il a abordé le problème de l'environnement et du développement durable.

La délégation portugaise se félicite de la présence du Dr Bommer en tant que Président du Comité du Programme car il a effectué un travail de qualité au cours des années durant lesquelles il a dirigé le Département de l'agriculture de la FAO.

Maintenant sa collaboration à la FAO qui sera fort utile pour notre réflexion sur des sujets sur lesquels tout le monde connaît sa grande expérience, nous assure d'un travail fructueux, nous tenons à le souligner.

Le document CL 102/6 souligne dans son introduction l'importance du rôle que peut jouer la FAO dans la conservation des ressources durables surtout dans le monde en développement, en incluant dans les projets qu'elle met en oeuvre ou dirige, le concept d'agriculture durable, tel qu'il a été défini lors de la session du Conseil de 1988 et que le document relate.

Il met en exergue la contribution d'autres organismes et de quelques réunions internationales sur ce sujet, notamment la réunion de Rio de Janeiro et la Conférence de Den Bosch.

Une étude approfondie du document permet d'analyser les quelques pages sur les domaines d'activités du Programme "Action 21" de la CNUED, programme très intéressant pour les projets de la FAO.

Nous tenons compte aussi des études réalisées en vue de la durabilité de l'environnement et les conclusions de l'étude en cours "Agriculture: Horizon 2010".

Quelques-unes de ces études sont le résultat de la coopération avec d'autres organisations internationales intéressées.

En conséquence, quelques pays demandent l'inclusion, dans les projets qui leur sont adressés, du concept d'agriculture durable. Leurs responsables politiques sont en effet déjà sensibilisés sur ces sujets.

A partir du paragraphe 69 le document attire notre attention sur quelques questions qui devront être mises en évidence dans le Programme de travail et le budget 1994-95 ainsi que dans le Plan à moyen terme et de réorientation des programmes.

Nous pensons devoir tenir compte des points suivants du programme:

1. maintenir le concept de développement durable dans tous les projets à approuver;
2. renforcer la coopération internationale parmi toutes les institutions vouées à ce sujet;

Définir des priorités telles que présentées dans le document: ces sujets sont très importants actuellement et dans l'avenir. Ils devront être étudiés lors de la préparation du budget des deux prochaines années.

Il serait peut-être plus économique de mettre en oeuvre quelques programmes sur le terrain en faisant usage d'autres systèmes d'exécution, mais nous ne devons pas oublier qu'il faut assurer des ressources pour les nouvelles générations.

On doit tenir compte de la fertilisation des terrains, en particulier dans les régions en cours de désertification, en raison du ravage des forêts tropicales, ou au contraire, dans les régions où l'intensité démographique a augmenté.

Toutes les entités engagées dans ce processus doivent augmenter leur activité pédagogique. La formation professionnelle des techniciens de la FAO doit être continuée. Nous pensons que la Division des Publications de la FAO devrait publier des études de divers niveaux pour influencer les classes sociales, les politiciens, les agriculteurs, et renforcer l'usage des moyens audiovisuels, surtout dans les pays où la désertification est la plus forte.

Quelques-uns de ces moyens ont abouti à des résultats excellents, tels que le CAPPA (Système micro-informatique pour la formation et l'aide à la planification agricole et démographique), mais d'autres devront être développés et mis en oeuvre lorsqu'on connaîtra leur répercussion.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** I thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to intervene on the very important Agenda item entitled "FAO Activities related to Environment and Sustainable Development". You may recall that while speaking on Agenda Item 4 I stated that sustainable agriculture is a question of life and death for the people of Bangladesh. In this intervention I shall try to elaborate.

Document CL 102/6 has very elaborately described the initiatives so far taken by the FAO in this very important subject. The study entitled "Sustainable Development and the Environment: FAO's policies and actions Stockholm 1972 - Rio 1992" is a commendable performance. We are eagerly awaiting the completion of the FAO ongoing study "Agriculture: Toward 2000".

My delegation is particularly interested in the cooperation which is being developed with UNEP and other agencies participating in the Earth Watch programme, which includes monitoring of atmosphere, natural resources and toxic chemicals. We are impressed by the performance of the African Realtime Environmental Monitoring Information System (ARTEMIS). It is heartening to note that information produced through ARTEMIS enhanced FAO's capabilities to forecast and monitor drought and food shortages, and enabled the Organization and donor community better to assist the countries affected. The possibility for the installation of such a system for the densely populated and land scarce Asian Region also merit consideration.

We note with satisfaction that the 1990 assessment of tropical forests which has just been completed was supplemented by the assessment of non-tropical forest resources.

Forest is a very important component in sustainable development. The loss of forests due to deforestation and the degradation of forest resources adversely affect land and water resources, wildlife, ecology and the environment. In many parts of Bangladesh soils have become impoverished and have lost their waterholding capacity; the succession of floods and drought has increased.

High population pressure leading to reduction in per capita availability of cultivable land compelled people to search for arable land, fodder and fuelwood for survival. As a result, much of the protective cover over land in catchment areas of rivers has been stripped away making rivers silt-ridden with their capacity for providing irrigation water seriously impaired. There is also evidence of reduction of the gene pool for further plant and animal evolution, and the habitat of wildlife is endangered severely due to deforestation and degradation of forest resources.

In view of the prevailing situation, we have to think of alternative approaches for promoting and preserving vegetative cover. Side by side with rehabilitation of denuded forests we have to integrate forests with agriculture and overall land use. Agro-forestry and social forestry are therefore of great importance to us.

We are pleased to know that environmental issues were given due consideration in the technical papers prepared for the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN). We have noted with keen interest the approach followed for environmental impact assessment in the formulation of field projects.

It is no doubt crucial that FAO Headquarters staff and FAO representatives participate in staff development seminars to re-orient them to new approaches.

It has also been proposed to train project managers. But I would like to emphasize the need for massive training programmes to motivate the farmers who are the ultimate decision-makers with regard to farming practices. We may tell the farmer many times of the adverse effects of existing practices, but he will not be impressed if we cannot give him a package of viable alternative technologies.

Management of coastal areas for sustainable development is very crucial from the Bangladesh perspective. Coastal areas have to be protected from the intrusion of salinity for crop production. On the other hand, salinity is needed for shrimp cultivation. There is thus a conflict of interests. At the present time in many places shrimp cultivation is getting preference over crop production as it is more remunerative. Export of shrimps brings precious foreign exchange. Two issues in this connection need probing. First, does shrimp cultivation endanger the fragile ecosystem, and is it sustainable? The second issue is of equity. It is the wealthy people who are involved in shrimp cultivation in the coastal areas. Therefore, they make the profits. On the other hand, small and marginal farmers suffer as they cannot raise crops due to the deliberate intrusion of salinity which is required for shrimp cultivation.

There is yet another area of conflict relating to coastal area management. New lands are formed due to the action of rivers and sea. Traditionally, these lands used to be leased out on a temporary basis for crop cultivation by local revenue officials. As such new-formed lands have a very fragile upper crust, permanent damage is done due to cultivation and grazing of cattle before the land is allowed to settle. For this purpose afforestation is the only answer.

Salinity is the most important problem which retards crop production in the coastal areas. Since we cannot wish away salinity, we have to devote time and resources to research aimed at development of crop varieties which will not be much affected by salinity. We have to develop a cropping system which will be most suitable for the coastal areas.

We agree with the proposals made for the streamlining of Special Action Programmes. We are also in agreement with the five areas identified for concentration. We agree that sustainable development is not possible without involving the people both at community and household level.

Paragraph 48 of the document enumerates the results of the review of the Special Action Programmes of the FAO. We are in general agreement with the findings but would like to emphasize that the human resources development programme - inclusive of peoples participation, women in development, education, training, extension and cooperatives - should receive special attention.

We fully support the new areas of activities mentioned in paragraph 53. Monitoring and assessment of land, water and forest use, integrated coastal area management, and follow-up to ICN are, inter alia, new activities which should find a place as emergent Special Action Programmes.

Before I conclude, I would like to raise the most vital issue of sustainability of land. There is widespread degradation of land which is being over-exploited. In Bangladesh there are instances when the same land produces three rice crops in a year. The land is thus fully exhausted. There is a critical shortage of fuel in the rural areas the farmers, instead of ploughing

back the stumps of crops, uproot the same for use as fuel. The land is thus deprived of the much needed biomass. In order to improve the situation widespread propagation of green manuring is a must. Crop diversification and location - specific appropriate cropping systems will also to some extent arrest land degradation.

The last point I would like to make is with regard to the phenomenon of diminishing returns. We are getting more production due to increased acreage under irrigation and use of HYV seed varieties and also more use of chemical fertilizers. Cropping intensity has considerably increased.

It is about 170 now in Bangladesh. But the fact remains that per unit yield is showing signs of decline. We need to invest more on agricultural research so that we are always ready with newer varieties before degeneration overtakes existing varieties. The otherwise excellent document CL 102/6 has possibly overlooked this very important aspect of sustainable development.

**Ruyat WIRATMADJA (Indonesia):** The Indonesian delegation has followed with interest FAO activities in environment and sustainable development, and has noted that further progress has been made in efforts to integrate sustainability criteria in FAO programmes and activities, and the efforts in streamlining the Special Action Programme have been encouraging. Therefore, let me express our deep appreciation for all the efforts made on this matter. We realize that the issue of sustainability covers a very broad scope of activities and we hope that FAO will continue to carry out such steps in order to increase food production, while maintaining the balanced utilization of natural resources. The Indonesian delegation would like to comment specifically on paragraph 33 of document CL 102/6. We note with interest that three key documents on sustainable forest management have been produced. They concern: conservation of genetic resources in productive forest management; comparative advantages of mixed and pure forest plantations in the tropics; and the survey of forest management and silvicultural systems in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

As the Earth Summit in Rio has also produced a document on Biodiversity Conservation that requires follow-up action, we are of the view that FAO could play an important role in this matter. In this regard, we would like to propose that FAO conduct a review on the world biodiversity situation, especially on the action taken by member countries in conserving endangered species. Secondly, FAO could initiate an incentive scheme to encourage member countries in conserving biodiversity.

Finally, since biodiversity conservation management is the common responsibility, as mentioned in the biodiversity document of the Earth Summit, FAO should also develop a system to encourage the participation of developed countries in assisting the developing countries in managing biodiversity conservation, especially in the areas of forestry and agriculture, not only in situ but also ex situ.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.





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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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CL 102/PV/7

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1992)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30

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

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas

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

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)
- 7. FAO Activities related to Environment and Sustainable Development: Progress Report on Implementation of Resolution 2/91: for discussion and/or decision (continued)
- 7. Activités de la FAO relatives à l'environnement et au développement durable: Rapport intérimaire sur l'application de la Résolution 2/91: pour examen et éventuellement décision (suite)
- 7. Actividades de la FAO relacionadas con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible: Informe sobre la aplicación de la Resolución 2/91: para debate y/o decisión (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous poursuivons la discussion du point 7 de l'ordre du jour. Nous sommes donc saisis du document CL 102/6 dont il est question dans le document CL 102/17, qui est le rapport des deux comités. A la page 6 de la version française de ce document, il est fait état de la discussion qui a eu lieu au sujet des activités de la FAO relatives au développement durable et à l'environnement.

Je rappelle qu'en ce qui concerne la Déclaration de compétences, la CEE nous a fait savoir que cette matière était de compétence mixte et que le droit de vote était dans les mains des Etats Membres.

**David H. SHERWOOD (Canada):** Mr Chairman, the Canadian delegation would like to thank Dr Mahler and Dr Bommer for their introduction to this issue yesterday and to thank the Secretariat for producing this document which summarizes the FAO's work to date in sustainable development and the environment and gives a preliminary view of follow-up to UNCED.

Canada has consistently supported the efforts of the FAO to move toward integrating sustainable development and environmental concerns throughout its activities as embodied in Conference Resolutions 3/89 and 2/91. Canada played a leadership role in the two-year UNCED process and attaches the highest priority to following up the results of the UNCED Conference, both nationally and internationally.

At home, Canada is developing important expertise and knowledge with sustainable development in the areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries through our national green plan and is currently in the process of consulting closely on UNCED follow-up with the broad spectrum of the Canadian stakeholder community, including provincial and territorial governments, aboriginal groups, environmental and developmental non-governmental organizations, labour, industry and many others. Canada has come to understand that in times of fiscal constraint, the roles of partnerships, cooperation and shared priorities are key to achieving our commitments under UNCED and our domestic environmental goals. We believe the same applies for international organizations.

Clearly the FAO is one element of a broad global system which must respond to the directions set at UNCED with follow-up action. By focusing its work and ensuring that its resources are used effectively, the FAO can make a significant contribution and, at the same time, ensure that our goals of



UNCED for sustainable agriculture, rural development, fisheries and forestry are met.

Canada is pleased to note that plans are being made to streamline Special Action Programmes and will follow with great interest action to give substance to these plans. These plans provide a mechanism to enable the FAO to focus on its priority areas, increasing the effectiveness of FAO's spending and providing for better accountability to FAO members.

The Special Action Programmes recommended as a result of the streamlining review appear to provide a good package consistent with the mandate of the Organization. It is important the FAO ensure that its UNCED follow-up priorities are reflected in these as much as possible to support implementation of the decisions from UNCED.

The list of programme areas of UNCED Agenda 21 of special relevance to FAO programmes in Annex I is a useful start to analysing the vast set of activities recommended by UNCED as they relate to FAO. Work must continue in the FAO as in other international organizations and within Member States to focus and refine these preliminary ideas further. We must remember however that, as elsewhere, resources are constrained and may be most effectively used by concentrating on areas where the FAO has the experience, the expertise and a comparative advantage.

Yesterday, the Indian delegation pointed out the importance of assigning priorities. The Canadian delegation suggests that the FAO prioritize proposed activities in the paper by working with three criteria in mind. The first

(I) activities where FAO has a natural lead role and much value to add as a result of its mandate and expertise. The chapters on sustainable agriculture and deforestation are examples of items that might fall in this category;

(II) activities where FAO has a significant interest and an important role to play in the outcome of an issue which may be led by another organization. Climate change and biodiversity are examples which significantly affect areas within our mandate and may be issues for consideration in this category; and

(III) there are cross-sectoral issues where FAO has an interest but not a significant role to play. There are the cases where the trade-off limited resources and FAO's interest is not as clear as in the second category. Areas such as environmental accounting and environmental education may fall in this latter category.

From these categories we can then look at the Special Action Programmes in the context of the FAO mandate and limited resources and have a clearer sense for where to put FAO's common resources. These categories also apply to areas which Canada believes should be priorities for FAO's Regular Field Programmes, notably: (a) sustainable agriculture and rural development, including management and conservation of soils and water resources, plant genetic resources, livestock production and health, sustainable crop production and protection, and integrated pest management; (b) policy advice for the management, conservation and sustainable development of forest and fisheries resources in developing countries and (c) the strengthening of indicators for sustainable development in areas of the FAO's purview.

Canada also believes that, along with planning, reporting on efforts and activities undertaken to internalize Agenda 21 constitutes a key element for achieving progress towards sustainable development.

Among the items issuing from UNCED to which Canada attaches the highest priority are the biodiversity and climate change conventions signed at Rio de Janeiro, the undertaking to negotiate a desertification convention with priority on Africa as well as to hold a UN Conference on High Seas Fisheries relating to straddling stocks and highly migratory species as our delegation mentioned during our statement on the state of world food and agriculture yesterday.

As acknowledged in the document before us, efforts will need to be made to avoid duplication between international agencies and to work cooperatively. The Canadian delegation notes that this report was written relatively shortly after the conclusion of UNCED. In thanking Mr Mahler for his update, we would ask that the Secretariat elaborate further on mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation in the post-UNCED era within a revitalized UN system. In particular, how does the Secretariat view the results of the ACC process which the Director-General recently chaired?

Our delegation would also appreciate some clarification about how the Secretariat intends to integrate post-UNCED follow-up into the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 and the Medium-Term Plan, as well as promote cross-sectoral integration of sustainable development and environmental considerations throughout the Organization. In this regard, the Canadian delegation would urge that UNCED follow-up, be a topic for discussion at the Programme Committee, as well as the technical committees of COFO, COFI and COAG.

Lastly, we support the Netherlands in their view on the need for environmental impact analyses for FAO projects. We would also like to add our general support to Sweden on behalf of the Nordic countries on the points made for forestry.

**Do Hoon LEE (Korea, Republic of):** My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for undertaking the study and making available the excellent and informative document CL 102/6. At the outset, Mr Chairman, you may recall the decision of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference, that sustainable development and environment should be a major priority of the Organization, not only for the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget but for its Medium-Term Plan and the field programmes and projects.

My delegation recognizes that the most important areas in Chapter II of the document related to sustainable development and environment are covered by the Organization's activities of Special Action Programmes, SAP.

Considering the difficult tasks of the financial management of FAO activities, my delegation wishes to point out that more attention should be given to the arrangement of priorities among Special Action Programmes.

With regard to paragraph 48 of the paper "The Review of SAPs", my delegation would like to emphasize items (i), (ii), (v) and (vi).

My delegation believes that for a successful result of the SAP activities the recipient country's interest should be fully reflected in the preparation and implementation of the SAPs.

There are some differences in priority setting and interests which vary according to individual countries because of their different socio-political and cultural backgrounds.

In this regard my delegation is of the opinion that the specific interest of each country and each region should be reflected as much as possible in preparing the SAPs.

Finally, on the results of the UNCED meeting, I associate myself with the concern that the implications of the UNCED results should be thoroughly studied for the strategies of FAO's future activities.

At this stage I would also like to emphasize the importance of cooperation and the avoidance of duplication among related organizations.

**Antonio BAYAS F. (Chile):** Quiero en primer lugar agradecer al Sr. Mahler por su introducción clara y precisa, así como al Sr. Bommer del Comité del Programa por su presentación.

Respecto al documento CL 102/6, Actividades de la FAO en relación con el desarrollo sostenible y el medio ambiente, la delegación de Chile encuentra muy apropiados los criterios y las actividades que ha programado la FAO en relación con el desarrollo sostenible, entendiéndose como tal la utilización racional del medio ambiente y de los recursos naturales, a la luz de los acuerdos adoptados en la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo, CNUMAD.

En relación a los criterios adoptados por la FAO en sus programas, concordamos en todos sus términos, que el desarrollo viable es el manejo y conservación de la base de recursos naturales y la orientación del cambio tecnológico institucional, de tal manera, que se asegure en forma eficiente las necesidades de la población presente y a las generaciones futuras.

En relación a la cooperación que debe tener la FAO con otros Organismos Internacionales, especialmente con el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente, sugerimos que ésta podría consultar, también, la relación eficiente con la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible, recomendada en la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo.

Respecto a las actividades que lleva a cabo la FAO sobre asesoramiento en políticas y planificación, estimamos que ésta debería reforzarse, particularmente en el campo del desarrollo agrícola sostenible.

Del mismo modo, consideramos necesario que la FAO continúe su estrecha cooperación con las actividades que desarrolle en el futuro la Convención sobre la Diversidad Biológica, adoptada en la CNUMAD, en junio del presente año, particularmente en el campo de la biotecnología.

En el campo de la integración de criterios relativos al medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible en los programas y proyectos de campo, sería conveniente conocer, en su debida oportunidad, las directrices elaboradas por el grupo especial, mencionadas en la página 8 del documento. Para la formulación de proyectos tendientes a aumentar la capacidad de producción agrícola, como actividades complementarias de los acuerdos adoptados por la CNUMAD, que están incluidos en la Agenda 21.

En la esfera de las cuestiones multisectoriales relativas al medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible, página 9 de nuestro documento, consideramos necesario conocer las actividades que ha realizado la FAO en el campo agrícola, ganadero, pesquero y forestal, desde el punto de vista del cambio climático, su impacto en las actividades productivas; la biodiversidad, pérdida del recurso genético; la ordenación integrada de zonas costeras; la lucha contra la desertificación, sobre pastoreo, manejo irracional del recurso forestal, la energía y la silvicultura.

Sin perjuicio de lo anterior, apoyamos un reforzamiento de las actividades que la FAO desarrolla en estos campos.

En relación a los Programas Especiales de Acción, PEA, aun cuando las actividades de estas operaciones no han concluido, concordamos que éstas deben ir desarrollándose a la luz de los resultados de la CNUMAD. Creemos que las actividades detalladas en la página 15, N° 48, apartados 1 al 12, son aceptables para los países en desarrollo.

Concordamos, señor Presidente con las decisiones de la CNUMAD, de importancia para la FAO, páginas 19 y 20 del documento que estamos analizando, así como los principales de los preceptos contenidos en la página 22, relativos también a la CNUMAD, con lo cual, sobre este aspecto no tenemos mayores comentarios.

Finalmente, respecto al Anexo I del documento que estamos analizando, debe tomarse en cuenta todos los temas que comprenden los capítulos de la Agenda 21, que son importantes, pero de especial importancia para Chile son el Capítulo 9: Protección de la Atmósfera; Capítulo 11: Medidas contra la Deforestación; Capítulo 13: Gestión de los Ecosistemas Frágiles; Capítulo 14: Fomento del Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural Sostenible; Capítulo 15: Conservación de la Biodiversidad; Capítulo 16: Gestión Ecológicamente Racional de la Biotecnología; Capítulo 17: Protección de los Océanos; Capítulo 19: Gestión de Desechos Peligrosos; Capítulo 26: Papel de las Comunidades Indígenas; Capítulo 36: Fomento de la Educación hacia un Desarrollo Sostenible, y, finalmente, Capítulo 37: Mecanismos Nacionales y Cooperación Internacional para Aumentar la Capacidad Nacional en los Países en Desarrollo.

**Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan):** First, my Government would like to thank Dr Mahler for his explanation. We also appreciate FAO's contribution to the UNCED process through its exercise on forestry, fisheries, biodiversity, etc. and the Den Bosch Declaration which provided the basic concept for Agenda Item 21.

Food and agricultural production have been recognized to be enhanced through the sustainable development process, taking into consideration global environmental issues. In this context, most of FAO's activities are automatically involved in the field of the environment.

Let me touch upon my country's attitude on this occasion. In Japan environmental issues stir up the consciousness of people, local communities and the private sector gradually. They are given high priority in national policy and programmes as well as in international cooperation.

In the agricultural sector we have been proud of the paddyfield system used on the majority of arable land in our country, as in other Asian countries, with our conditions of monsoons and a human climate, for the reason that this system conserves water effectively and protects the top soil from erosion

because of the function of the boundary surrounding each plot. Even in the paddyfield system, which we still believe is the best agricultural system for our Asian monsoon climate, we are trying to minimize environmental impacts such as a chemical input into the field, while endeavouring to increase productivity on a research and trial basis.

This is one of the components of "The Basic Direction of New Policies for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas" in Japan, released in June this year, which is the basis of our agricultural policy towards the twenty-first century.

Recognizing the significance of the environment and sustainable development, my Government participated positively in UNCED and contributed to the formulation process of the international agreement. With regard to the financial contribution, the Japanese delegate announced at the Rio Conference that Japan will expand its bilateral and multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the field of the environment to approximately 900 billion to one trillion yen, or approximately US\$7-8 billion, during the five-year period starting from fiscal year 1992.

With regard to FAO's field project, we have given priority to the environmental issues.

My Government strongly expects FAO to contribute further to the follow-up of UNCED, taking into account good coordination, to avoid a duplication of activities among international agencies. In this sense, we hope that a priority area for FAO will be clear. We are waiting for the explanation of the linkage between the Biodiversity Convention and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

We are convinced that the ultimate identity of FAO is its capacity to monitor, analyse and disseminate agricultural information and its activities on policy guidance based on its expertise. In this sense my Government supports paragraph 46 which mentions the close relationship of field projects and feedback to the regular programme so as to refine FAO's expertise and initiative.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to congratulate Japan on its support at the Rio Conference and its announcement that it will increase substantially its efforts in the field of cooperation and development.

**Benson C. MBOGOH (Kenya):** My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General on the central role he has played in the preparation and subsequent participation in UNCED. We also commend him on his consistency of effort in giving practical meaning to the noble ideas of environmental conservation and protection and sustainable development. We commend the Secretariat on their report in document CL 102/6 and Mr Mahler and Dr Bommer on their further elaborating comments. Having said that, permit me to make just a few comments on the report.

The broad priority areas to which FAO has directed its activities are, in our view, well conceived and clearly defined: that is, integrating sustainability criteria in the Organization's programmes and activities, streamlining of the Special Action Programmes and follow-up of UNCED. Reading through the report, however, one gets the impression that within these clearly defined broad

programme areas the Secretariat is attempting to cover too much, with seemingly unclear prioritization of the separate activities.

In paragraph 7 the document states that some special cross-sectoral issues of critical importance to sustainability are being addressed. My delegation would be pleased to have a little further elaboration on how the issues of coastal areas and desertification are being addressed.

On assessment and perspective studies, my delegation applauds FAO's efforts in developing indicators and methodological tools to enable efficient qualitative assessment and projection of environmental changes. However, deliberate efforts should be made to collaborate meaningfully with other bodies, including UNEP and other UN agencies, member governments, intergovernmental groups and NGOs. This will ensure harmonization of the methodologies and avoidance of duplication of efforts, we believe.

Furthermore, methodologies developed should be suitable for efficient use in developing countries. In other words, these tools should be effective and accurate but simple to apply without the use of high-tech gadgetry, for which developing countries have no capacity.

Effective management of the environment for ensuring sustainability requires effective integrated planning and management of the resources within it. Effective planning itself requires reliable and timely data. The lack of an adequate resource database or capacity to generate the data needed is a serious handicap to the formulation of national environmental policies, resource planning and management in many developing countries. Kenya, for example, has embraced the ideals of environmental conservation in practical terms through the creation of public awareness, promotion of people's participation in environmental conservation and institution building to enhance environmental protection. The Resource Survey and Remote Sensing Department of the Ministry of Material Resources makes the use of satellite for aerial data collection possible. However, inadequate data and information in some crucial areas of the resource base is still a major constraint to our further resource planning and management effort. We still need increased capacity to assess and monitor resource data changes in some crucial areas, as I have already stated. We therefore consider FAO's efforts in providing advisory services on policy planning in this development area very essential and consider that they should be intensified.

I will not say much about UNCED as many delegates before me have already given a very good account of the role which FAO has played. We should like to see a successful follow-up of UNCED and hope that FAO will continue to take the leading role which it played during preparation for, and participation in, this meeting.

**HUANG YONGNING (China) (Original language Chinese):** I should like to commend the Secretariat for the preparation of document CL 102/6 and the presentations by Mr Mahler and Dr Bommer. I should now like to express our views on this agenda item.

Firstly, with the increasing population and deterioration of the environment and resources, a great challenge facing us in food and agricultural production the world over is to produce more and better food to meet the needs of mankind. The concept of sustainable development and agriculture enables us to

look from a new angle at the relationship between man and nature, between social development and environmental protection, and consider new and more significant agricultural development strategies.

We have noted that FAO has made considerable efforts in integrating sustainable agriculture into its various programmes as a guideline. Many activities have been carried out in this regard. We have also noted that FAO made its due contribution to UNCED by providing technical support. We are very pleased with this and hope that FAO will make further efforts along these lines.

Secondly, sustainable agriculture and rural development is not only the guideline for us in formulating plans and taking actions but also a strategic target for agriculture and rural development. In the process towards achieving these targets, there will surely be many concrete and technical problems to be tackled. In this regard, FAO should make use of its unique advantage to conduct and strengthen research and formulate relevant policies so as to ensure an integration of agricultural development and environmental conservation to foster coordinated and healthy development of agriculture.

Thirdly, when implementing the UNCED follow-up activities, we hope that FAO will not only strengthen the collaboration among various departments within the Organization but also enhance cooperation with other international agencies. FAO should put emphasis on action and spare no efforts in seeking the necessary funds to put forward a clear target and establish an efficient monitoring and evaluation system so that the International Cooperative Programme for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and the Special Action Programmes can be fully implemented and tangible results can be achieved.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to inform the Council that on May 25 to 28 next year China will organize an International Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in its capital, Beijing. We shall warmly welcome experts and friends from all countries to this large-scale symposium.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** Gracias por darme la posibilidad de presentar una contribución de la delegación del Brasil sobre el punto 7 del orden del día.

Nosotros consideramos que el documento presentado por el Secretariado de la FAO y las explicaciones dadas por los representantes de la FAO son muy claras, completas y transparentes, muestran un cuadro constructivo sobre las actividades que la FAO viene ejecutando en el pasado y en el presente con la preocupación de aplicar y reforzar los principios del desarrollo sostenible.

En la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo realizada en Río se hizo hincapié en el hecho de que las agencias especializadas de las Naciones Unidas tendrán un importante papel a jugar dentro de sus respectivas áreas de competencia en la ejecución de las partes relevantes del Programa 21 y de otras decisiones de aquella Conferencia. En ese sentido la FAO ya está apoyando los esfuerzos nacionales, regionales e internacionales para la integración de las cuestiones de medio ambiente y desarrollo en todo lo que se refiere a agricultura, pesca y silvicultura, con el objetivo de promover el desarrollo agrícola y rural sostenible, es decir, el aumento de la producción de alimentos de manera sostenible y una mejor seguridad alimentaria.

Se podría enfatizar que las acciones de la FAO deben siempre pautarse por el principio de que para que se alcance el desarrollo sostenible, la protección ambiental deberá constituir parte integral del proceso de desarrollo y no podrá ser considerada aisladamente de ese proceso. De manera más específica se puede resaltar la contribución de la FAO a los esfuerzos para que se alcance la seguridad alimentaria, a la ordenación de la utilización de la tierra, al manejo forestal sostenible, a los programas de combate a la sequía y la degradación de los suelos, a la difusión de técnicas de empleo de insumos agrícolas, de gestión integrada de plagas y de enfoques integrados de nutrientes vegetales, eficacia de productividad de suelos y su relación con el medio ambiente, contribución a la mejora de la eficiencia de las actividades agrícolas, pesqueras y forestales, de forma que se alcancen aumentos de producción sin ejercer presión sobre los recursos naturales, contribución, igualmente, a la difusión de experiencias, de metodologías de planificación energética, a la elaboración y difusión de metodologías de evaluación de impacto ambiental, adaptadas a los imperativos del desarrollo agrícola sostenible.

Esos son ejemplos en que la FAO ya está dando una contribución muy valiosa a los países en desarrollo y a nuestro país también.

En resumen, nuestra delegación considera que la FAO ya está haciendo y debe continuar ayudando a los países en desarrollo en la búsqueda de los recursos financieros y de la tecnología necesarias para la ejecución de sus planes de desarrollo sostenible.

Gracias, Sr. Presidente, por dar a la delegación de Brasil la oportunidad de intentar presentar una contribución a los debates sobre este punto que es verdaderamente muy importante para todos los países en desarrollo y en general para el planeta tierra.

**Joseph MHELLA (Tanzania):** I wish to thank the Secretariat for their elaborate presentation of this agenda item and for the well-prepared and comprehensive document CL 102/6.

I should like to begin my intervention by reminding you, Mr Chairman, and all the delegates present here today, that we owe many thanks to our forefathers for the good job they did in the management and conservation of the natural resource base and the environment in which we now enjoy living. They may have done some damage to it in one way or another, but they did their best and played their part. This being the case, we of this generation also have a duty to fulfil for the sake of future generations. We are duty bound to lay a better foundation for the preservation of the natural resource base and for the prevention of negative environmental effects. Where the environment has unfortunately been degraded, it is our duty to take steps to improve it for the future well-being of humanity.

My delegation would like to congratulate the Director-General of FAO for initiating the proposal to integrate sustainable criteria in all FAO programmes and activities. My country supports this move and will do everything possible on our part to cooperate with FAO and other organizations which have an interest in environmental sustainability. We call upon FAO to strengthen its cooperation with other UN and non-UN bodies concerned with sustainable agricultural and rural development, and encourage it to continue to cooperate with UNCED so as to ensure the necessary support to sustainable



agriculture, forestry and fisheries activities in the context of the proposed UNCED Agenda 21.

We also appreciate the steps so far taken by FAO in starting to comply with FAO Conference Resolution 2/91 on the elaboration of strategies and guidelines for future international and national action. We hope these efforts will be continued and the results brought to the attention of this forum in the future and to the international community in general.

My delegation would again like to call upon FAO in all its periodic assessments and development studies to be undertaken, to take into account environmental sustainability and would advise the countries concerned accordingly. We support FAO in its efforts now being taken as stated in paragraph 8 of the document, to develop sustainable indicators and methodological tools for quantitative assessment and projection. As the delegate from Kenya has stated, we advise that these tools should be simple and easy to use by the people in the field. We believe that these will very much help us in our efforts to increase agricultural productivity, at the same time conserving the environment.

Lastly, for FAO's efforts to succeed we propose that FAO should retrain its field staff accordingly, to enable them to cope with these new developments, particularly in the field of policy formulation and analysis. We all know that they do advise our governments and, therefore, these people in the field should be trained; also in the field of extension services and in all the fields in which they are involved.

We also urge FAO field staff to follow closely the effects of prolonged fertilizer and agro-chemical applications on the environment in developing countries so that they can assist by advising the countries concerned in order to prevent degradation of the environment.

Finally, my delegation supports the follow-up action as given in paragraphs 69 and 70 of the document.

**Mansur M. SEGHAHER (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate, I would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor. I would also like to thank Messrs Mahler and Bommer for their introductory comments to the document in front of us.

As Mr Mahler said, this document is the Fourth Progress Report presented by the Secretariat about its activities in sustainable development and agriculture. All the people who have been following the reports from the beginning can see for themselves that the Organization has already made a great deal of progress in applying this new principle, and observers can see that the Organization is following a very carefully balanced path in its search for solutions and frameworks for its new activities.

We are happy to see that the Organization has not acted alone, but has consulted other bodies, national, international and regional, and has cooperated with them. This confirms yet again the essential role played by FAO in this area. In fact, FAO is the only organization which can provide this sort of training and experience in all technical areas and coordinate international cooperation.

I should like to express my delegation's satisfaction with the document before us today and we appreciate the effort put into preparing it. We should like to express our appreciation to all those who took part. The report does, in fact, respond most effectively to the decisions taken by the Council in general conference, and provide these two bodies with very clear objectives and also a proper general framework for sustainable agricultural development.

I should now like to make one or two more specific comments. This report mentions a number of activities in various directions. I think that we should probably come to a global and integrated overview of all these activities. It is only natural that these activities be only in their early stages. That is why when we read the Report - and we did read it very carefully - it gave the impression that the Secretariat had, in fact, now achieved a global and integrated view of the whole subject.

The Earth Summit was completed not very long ago and the organizations concerned have not yet been able to decide on what follow-up activities should be implemented. We do hope that the next report we get will be more analytical and will give us the basis for the conceptual approach of the Organization.

The Report also concentrates, naturally enough at this time, on the activities undertaken under technical programmes. We hope that the next stage will be one of programmes being implemented at national level and that the Organization will be able to help the countries involved to increase their technical and human capacity.

Thirdly, a number of colleagues have already said that the Rio Conference, despite its success, has not provided the necessary financial resources to implement the decisions and recommendations that were adopted there. We feel that the Organization ought to play a specific role in attracting financing to developing countries.

Finally, this Report does not really clearly state the guidelines of the Organization in different geographical and climatic areas. We know that the different regions have urgent requirements which have to be met and problems which have to be resolved.

I am not exaggerating when I say that the Near East Region, which is very special from an ecological point of view, deserves careful and thorough study. We await with interest to see what activities the Organization propose to carry out there, especially since the Regional Office has opened again and is undertaking its work enthusiastically with a new team and a new head.

Like previous speakers, I support the decisions on the activities taken by the Organization, especially when it comes to integrating sustainability criteria and streamlining the SAPs.

I should like to congratulate the Organization on the role it played in helping prepare the Rio Conference, and also to thank the Director-General for the particular interest he showed in it.

I should also like to add that sustainable agriculture and rural development problems are very complicated and complex, and require the coordination of international and national efforts as well as the help and support of all sectors of society. We see that the Secretariat has shown that it is aware of

the magnitude of the problem and that it is determined to make a success of the activities it has undertaken.

I have a question that I should like to ask. Is the international community, in particular donor countries, able to shoulder this responsibility not only for this generation but for generations to come? I do hope so.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran has noted very carefully document CL 102/6 on FAO activities related to Environment and Sustainable Development.

First, on behalf of my delegation I should like to thank and congratulate the Secretariat on the preparation of such a comprehensive and informative document. Their approaches for integrating sustainability criteria in FAO's programmes are to be commended. Secondly, regarding this issue, I should like to make the following remarks. But before I get into this subject I should like to express my appreciation to Mr Mahler, Special Adviser for Environment and Sustainable Development, for his well-organized and informative introduction of the subject.

First, sustainable development in turn hinges largely on the sustainable utilization of the natural environment the core component of which is natural resources.

Accordingly, the FAO, as the most competent agency in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the United Nations system, should concentrate on strategy, policy programme and action plans that encourage and help the developing countries, particularly the rural poor, to undertake their agricultural production without causing environmental disorders and land resources degradation, or at least to minimize these damages at an acceptable level.

In order to achieve this vital goal, the FAO should help developing countries. prepare their agriculture national plan on the basis of sustainable supporting capacity of natural resources and social, economical and environmentally sound technology as well.

Of course, it should be noted that some prerequisite measures, such as the promotion of training and education capacity and institutional strengthening of developing countries, need to be fulfilled, or at least to be performed parallel to the above-mentioned issues.

In this regard, the training, research and technical assistance of the FAO can effectively provide developing countries with the assured areas and means to meet basic needs in respect to skilled and specialized manpower and other prerequisite measures.

Since the majority of the populations of the least developed and developing countries is concentrated in Asia and Africa, particular attention should be given to the deprived people of these two continents.

In order to make the FAO's activities more efficient and effective, special attention should be given to the FAO's activities in respect to strengthening the institutional aspects of developing countries, and their national capacity building in relation to the sectors concerned.

The issue of national capacity building of developing countries, which has been adopted as one of the chapters of Agenda 21, is very general and it is not sector-oriented. For this reason, we believe that it cannot be efficient and effective in relation to the FAO's activities unless it becomes sector-oriented. Therefore, on behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to emphasize the FAO's role in national capacity building in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.

Secondly, as you are well aware, Mr Chairman, our country is located in an arid and semi-arid region of the world; some 80 percent of its total land area of 165 million hectares is arid and semi-arid. Because of this land characteristic of our country, during the last 25 years, in the field of sand dune fixation and combating desertification, we have accomplished extensive and extraordinary measures in more than 3 million hectares of arid and desertified areas of Iran. This has led to extensive experience and expertise output; and also a high potential for scientific and technical assessment capacity of desertification methods has been achieved. Therefore, with regard to Chapter 12 of Agenda 21, Managing Fragile Eco-systems: combating desertification and drought, the achievements in the Islamic Republic of Iran could be taken as an example of what can be done for the implementation of the above-mentioned programme area. Also, we are ready to share our experience with and learn from other countries that have similar experience in the world. In this regard, I would like to request that the Islamic Republic of Iran be considered as a pilot country for the activities of Chapter 12 of Agenda 21.

Thirdly, concerning the Special Action Programmes, under the subject Discussion of Streamlining of Special Action Programmes of Item 7, we fully support the five areas of concentration which have been mentioned in the document concerned. In respect to the establishment of 12 Special Action Programmes as the result of its review, which are closely linked to UNCED and Agenda 21, I would like to point out that, regarding the Forestry Action Plan, it should encompass all types of forest within the framework of the National Forestry Action Programme, and Programme 10 of proposed SAPs, namely conservation and rehabilitation of land to be expanded for the Near East Region.

Finally, on behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to express my appreciation to FAO for its remarkable assistance in preparing the sustainable agricultural development and institutional strengthening project as an international case study in Bakhtaran province which covers some 24 500 square kilometres of our country.

**Ricardo VELASQUEZ HUERTA (México):** En primer término, Sr. Presidente, queremos agradecer a la Secretaría por la elaboración del documento CL 102/6, toda vez que, a nuestro juicio, se trata de un documento muy bien estructurado que define con mucha precisión las actividades que la FAO ha venido realizando desde hace muchos años en relación con el desarrollo sostenible y el medio ambiente.

La delegación mexicana coincide con los propósitos de la Organización respecto de que el desarrollo sostenible y el medio ambiente deben ser objeto de prioridad e incorporarse cabalmente a las labores de la FAO, ello con la doble finalidad de dar cumplimiento a los acuerdos de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y de continuar con el trabajo permanente que la FAO ha venido desarrollando en este rubro.

Sería innecesario en este momento enumerar cada una de las acciones que la FAO ha realizado en el pasado en favor del desarrollo sostenible y el medio ambiente. De ello ya queda constancia escrita en casi todas las actas de los Consejos y Conferencias de la Organización. Sin embargo, debemos hacer referencia a dos actividades recientes que la FAO ha ejecutado exitosamente:

- La Conferencia FAO/Países Bajos sobre Agricultura y Medio Ambiente, que tuvo lugar en abril de 1992, y
- La Reunión Latinoamericana sobre Desarrollo Sostenible y Medio Ambiente en los sectores de la Agricultura, los Montes y la Pesca, celebrada en Santiago de Chile en abril de este año.

Estos dos eventos bastarían para destacar la importancia que la FAO le da a este tema.

Por otra parte, esperamos con mucho interés la realización y los resultados de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Recursos Genéticos a celebrarse en 1993 que, sin duda, dará un énfasis especial a la parte relativa de utilización de los recursos genéticos con conservación que, indudablemente, son compatibles con el desarrollo y el medio ambiente.

Nos complace enormemente el contenido del párrafo 70 del documento, ya que en él textualmente se expresa "el grado aceptable de coherencia entre las áreas del Programa 21 y los Programas de la FAO". Pero, además, se precisa lo que es evidente en muchos aspectos relativos a la alimentación, la agricultura, la silvicultura y la pesca, el Programa 21 va mucho más allá del alcance y los medios de los programas actuales de la FAO. Será necesario, pues, tal como lo indica el documento, determinar prioridades y establecer acuerdos de cooperación con otras instituciones, incluidas las organizaciones no gubernamentales a fin de distribuir el trabajo de una manera apropiada.

De esta frase podemos desprender un sinnúmero de consideraciones, a las que la FAO ya se ha comprometido: racionalizar sus actividades y evitar duplicidad en sus funciones con las de otras instituciones internacionales, propiciando una mayor coordinación con todos los organismos de las Naciones Unidas.

La delegación de México desea señalar en este momento que las cuestiones de carácter ecológico no deben ser pretexto para aplicar barreras comerciales injustas e injustificadas que tienen un impacto adverso en las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo. Por ello, estimamos que es muy importante que la FAO mantenga su participación en las instancias multilaterales de comercio, como el GATT. Apoyaremos muy firmemente cualquier pronunciamiento que la Organización haga para propiciar la conclusión más pronta y efectiva de las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay.

En relación con los Programas Especiales de Acción, apreciamos los esfuerzos realizados hasta ahora por la FAO y le pedimos a nuestra Organización continuar con ellos a fin de garantizar la adecuada ejecución y el alcance de los objetivos de estos programas. Especialmente, respaldamos los propósitos de la FAO de instrumentar y estructurar programas especiales de acción específicos, vinculados con los objetivos de la CNUMAD y de la Agenda 21, de manera particular con los Programas de pesca responsable y sostenible.

Desde la perspectiva del sector agropecuario y forestal de México, el tema del desarrollo sostenible y medio ambiente se considera de particular interés para los trabajos de la FAO.

En relación con la agricultura sostenible, la situación actual de México, donde los productores requieren ya de modelos que les permitan producir en condiciones competitivas y sobre todo aumentar su productividad reduciendo costos y disminuyendo riesgos, las plagas, las enfermedades y los fenómenos meteorológicos les obligan a usar constantemente agroquímicos cada vez en mayor medida. Es indispensable, pues, analizar y seguir de cerca los efectos de este modelo sobre la sostenibilidad de la agricultura.

Por otra parte, consideramos necesario que los países en desarrollo definan con precisión su ventaja comparativa en un contexto de libre mercado a nivel internacional, incluyendo el criterio de agricultura y desarrollo rural sostenibles.

Para lograr modelos competitivos de producción y reducir costos, es indispensable reorientar e incrementar el apoyo a los programas de investigación con el propósito de generar tecnologías para una Agricultura Sostenible. Es indispensable desarrollar programas de capacitación para los investigadores y el personal responsable de la transferencia de tecnología y la extensión e ir incorporando estos temas a los programas globales educativos de la sociedad.

En lo que a los asuntos pesqueros se refiere, hacemos patente, una vez más nuestro agradecimiento a la FAO por su eficaz auxilio para la realización de la Conferencia Internacional de Pesca Responsable celebrada en Cancún, cuyos resultados han merecido la consideración tanto en la Cumbre de Río como la de este foro.

Asimismo, en consonancia con el párrafo 35 del documento que nos ocupa, consideramos de fundamental importancia la posibilidad de un nuevo y separado Programa de Acción para la ordenación integral de las áreas costeras, dado los auxilios de estos ecosistemas que son base fundamental de las pesquerías y en las que concurren una gran variedad de actividades que de no ser correctamente armonizadas ponen en peligro la sostenibilidad. De ahí la importancia de que se le otorgue especial atención.

Señor Presidente, la delegación mexicana ha expuesto sus puntos de vista y felicita nuevamente a la FAO por el trabajo realizado hasta ahora.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** We would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for their preparation of this document. We have been presented with a clear analysis of the subject and a concise guide to FAO's view for the future. In particular we would like to applaud the sense of realism evident in document CL 102/6. The paper sets out clearly the progress made on implementation of Resolution 2/91, and shows appreciation that the Organization should focus on areas within its own mandate and accepts the need to prioritize. It accepts, and does not commit, the Organization to undertake the coordination post-UNCED of programmes which might be better coordinated elsewhere - whether within the UN system or outside.

The allotment of responsibilities for activities related to UNCED has yet to be decided, but we are nonetheless grateful to the Secretariat for providing

this brief description of the areas which FAO considers are relevant to its mandate and activities. We strongly endorse the Secretariat's view that since many Agenda 21 activities go far beyond the scope of FAO programmes there is a need for careful selection and prioritization of activities. In this respect the FAO will need to adapt its existing programmes to fit the Agenda 21 framework.

We agree that there must be a coordinated sharing of responsibilities and duties between the various parties involved in this very important work. Such practices are especially important since there is no indication that additional funds will be forthcoming and so redeployment of resources may be required.

We would like to express our support for the Secretariat's choice of priorities for the Special Action Programmes. These reflect the FAO's mandated role as a centre of technical excellence designed to disseminate information and expertise in the vital areas of agriculture and food production. They are also obviously an indication of the Secretariat's own views as to where the strengths of the Organization lie, and we look forward to seeing this emphasis carried forward in the prioritization of future work within the Regular Programme. The comments made by the Indian delegation, the Hungarian delegation and the Canadian delegation are particularly pertinent in this respect.

We welcome the emphasis given by FAO to the environment as a cross-cutting issue in its programmes and activities.

Paragraph 23 indicates that an ad hoc working group has been set up to produce guidelines on how to ensure that FAO field projects take due account of environmental and sustainability questions. We would be interested to know more about how this is working in practice. We also suggest that the awareness of all staff - both technical and administrative, including those in country offices - might be further enhanced by the production of an "Environment Manual". This would include a checklist of questions to be asked at the earliest stages of project identification which would indicate whether a full environmental impact assessment be required.

The paper mentions that an extensive review of sustainable development has taken place, and that criteria are currently being integrated into project appraisals. It would be helpful if we knew the criteria being used, not only as they are applied at the project and programme level but also at the policy and strategic planning level.

Finally, I would like to support the remarks made by the delegations of France and Germany about the need to consider population aspects, and while I have noted your comments made on the suggestion made by the Netherlands delegation regarding a Field Programme Committee, I nonetheless support their proposal.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ce qui concerne la proposition des Pays-Bas, je crois avoir bien expliqué hier quelle était la procédure à suivre pour ajouter un point à l'ordre du jour. Elle est reprise explicitement dans le Verbatim de la séance d'hier.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** In Rio the world community gathered to forge a new global partnership for the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of its resources. Last week in opening the General Assembly debate on the follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali astutely pointed out that "the challenge after Rio is to maintain the momentum of commitment to sustainable development, to transform it into policies and practice, and to give it effective and coordinated organizational support".

As we consider FAO activities related to environment and development we need to determine how the FAO can best support national policies and programmes which implement this commitment to the environment and sustainable development, working within a renewed and integrated United Nations system.

The FAO clearly has a major role to play on issues of environment and development within its mandate. In line with the commitments of Hungary, India and Canada we note that in fulfilling that role FAO must set clear priorities in its areas of expertise that recognize and integrate the social, economic and environmental dimension of sustainability. In this connection we believe Canada's proposal for a three-tiered approach on priority setting in FAO has great merit. Concurrently we note that FAO must also measurably strengthen its cooperation and support for other UN system agencies, including UNDP and UNEP which also have major roles in Agenda 21 implementation.

The report we have before us demonstrates the broad range of activities already under way in the FAO which support the sustainable development goals of the Rio Conference but we question whether the report is sufficiently forward-looking. This effort to integrate sustainability criteria is commendable. The report also cites a much broader range of activities through which the FAO can contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21.

We cannot simply read through Agenda 21 searching for follow-up opportunities which may fall within the FAO's mandate. We need to take from the Rio Conference a broad sense of the areas in which FAO has clear priorities and see the forests, not just the trees.

FAO's core mandate, reinforced by the priorities established in Rio falls in three broad areas: agriculture, forestry and fisheries. These are the priority areas on which the FAO need to focus and where we need to apply our limited resources as I will explain more fully as we look at the implementation.

In considering these priority areas, however, I think we all recognize that the second area, forestry, has been comparatively neglected in recent years. FAO has unique competence and plays an extremely important role in assessment of forest resources worldwide, but FAO has neither deployed personnel and financial resources as effectively as possible in the forestry area, nor has it necessarily concentrated on areas where FAO has great comparative advantage.

The FAO Council could not reach a consensus on the Tropical Forest Action Plan last year. As a result, the FAO is becoming marginalized on forestry issues. The UNCED consensus, and in particular, the adoption of the "forest principles" compels us to recognize anew the importance of forests, and to reexamine FAO forestry activities. Given the experience with TFAP my Government believes that FAO should focus its attention on strengthening its data collection and information dissemination capability. FAO should also



concentrate on reinforcing its forestry related technical assistance activities.

Now that we have established the areas of concern for FAO in the follow-up to UNCED - agriculture, forestry and fisheries - we need to explore what FAO should do in these areas and how it can best be accomplished. If we ask ourselves hard questions, we will find ourselves returning to three basic principles: the need to support national policies and programmes, the effective application of scarce financial resources and the need to coordinate with other UN agencies in the implementation of Agenda 21.

The primary responsibility for implementing Agenda 21 rests with states, while intergovernmental organizations play a supporting role designed to strengthen national capacity to deal with environment and development issues.

The FAO, as an intergovernmental organization with considerable expertise, is in a unique position to contribute through its most basic activities: the collection, analysis and timely dissemination of critical information concerning agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Programmes such as ARTEMIS, for example, should be expanded globally.

We also believe work on plant genetic resources, including the convening of an International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, is an area where FAO has a leading role. We believe FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources will be instrumental in implementing UNCED recommendations in this area.

FAO's information and expertise can and should principally contribute to effective national policies and programmes. Where technical assistance is undertaken, this should not supplant national programmes, but should contribute to national capacity-building. The priorities established at UNCED, not the availability of external financial resources, should be the selection criteria for FAO activities, including technical assistance projects. Thus FAO should undertake priority activities which support national efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Second, how can we maximize the FAO's contribution to sustainable development within the limited resources available?

We must recognize that the global pool of resources available to intergovernmental organizations will not increase significantly in the near term. Efficiency is therefore at a premium, both because FAO cannot depend on additional resources to implement Agenda 21 and because donors will direct their resources where they will have the greatest effect. All the available resources, including assessed contributions, will have to be shifted to priority areas to achieve the greatest impact.

We welcome the proposed streamlining of FAO's Special Action Programme. We believe this will enable FAO to establish clear priorities and a more definitive course of action. The specific programmatic and financial consequences of this proposal should be elaborated in the 1994-95 Programme of Work and Budget. Given the severe budget constraints that impact many Member States, it is not realistic to assume significant new resources will be available to fund activities, as suggested in paragraph 69. We endorse, however, an active priority-setting effort that will lead to redeployment of resources for marginal activities which need to be eliminated and in this

context await the recommendation of the 1994-1995 Programme of Work and Budget on how resources will be apportioned.

Third, how should the FAO implement its programmes in a reformed, post-UNCED United Nations system?

Agenda 21 reflects the overlap in expertise and activities between the many agencies of the United Nations which have a role in the follow-up to UNCED. Only collaboration between these agencies will ensure effective and efficient implementation. Developing sustainability guidelines which address social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability is a key activity which will require an interdisciplinary approach through collaboration with a wide range of agencies and organizations, including ITTO.

We join Portugal and Madagascar in urging FAO also to strengthen cooperation with UNEP and other agencies in monitoring natural resource conditions and changes.

Technical assistance activities should be coordinated with other UN programmes in the recipient countries through the UNDP Resident Representative.

The United Nations system is undergoing much needed reform to address the fragmentation and lack of coordination which have limited its effectiveness. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali is appropriately leading the effort to reform the structure of the Secretariat. It is incumbent on us, the Member States, to reform the Governing Bodies to provide coherent policy guidance and managerial oversight.

The Commission on Sustainable Development will have a central, coordinating role in the follow-up to UNCED.

FAO will need to establish a system for collaboration with the Commission and it can be critical in supporting the Commission's Agenda 21 monitoring role. The FAO has a major contribution to make in support of national policies to promote sustainable development. We believe too that the Netherlands' suggestion should be placed on the next Council regarding a field programme coordinating committee because we think this will strengthen FAO's ability to implement Agenda Item 21. Effective implementation of this goal will require a sustained focus on FAO's strength and coordination with other UN agencies under the guidance of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le très honorable délégué des Etats-Unis de son intervention. Je voudrais faire remarquer que la FAO a pleinement collaboré avec l'ensemble de la famille des Nations Unies et qu'en ce qui concerne le PAFT il serait souhaitable que la discussion ait lieu demain après-midi, comme prévu à l'ordre du jour. Etant donné que la séance de demain après-midi - vendredi 13 - se prolongera dans la soirée, nous aurons tout le temps voulu pour discuter le plan d'action forestier tropical. Je crois que dans le domaine des forêts, la FAO ne se sent pas du tout marginalisée par rapport aux autres organisations. On a parlé de ressources complémentaires, on a parlé des priorités, on a parlé des activités marginales et je souhaiterais que lorsqu'on parle d'activités marginales, on puisse indiquer, dans la mesure du possible, de quelles activités il s'agit. Il en est de même quand on parle des priorités; il y a des choses qui sont plus prioritaires que d'autres, ce qui veut dire qu'il y a des choses qui sont moins prioritaires ou non

prioritaires. Encore faudrait-il que les instances politiques, en l'occurrence le Conseil, disent clairement ce qu'elles estiment ne pas être prioritaire.

En ce qui concerne la réforme de la famille des Nations Unies, le point suivant permettra d'aborder cette question de façon plus complète.

**Abdesselem ARIFI (Maroc):** Ma délégation tient tout d'abord à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui nous sont soumis pour examen et M. Mahler pour l'introduction de ce point de l'ordre du jour, de même que M. Bommer pour ses remarques pertinentes.

Au titre de ce point ma délégation se limitera à évoquer les quelques questions ci-après.

Ma délégation exprime sa satisfaction quant au fait que le Secrétariat a continué à approfondir ses travaux dans ce domaine, conformément aux Résolutions 3/89 et 2/91 de la Conférence de la FAO. L'Organisation a joué un rôle important lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement durable, rôle qu'elle doit continuer à assumer.

Ma délégation accueille favorablement le processus d'examen et de rationalisation des Programmes d'action spéciaux visant à la mise au point d'un programme-cadre général de coopération internationale pour une agriculture et un développement durable, et de l'avis de ma délégation ce programme-cadre général permettra à l'Organisation de répondre de façon précise et plus coordonnée aux composantes de l'Action 21 de la CNUED.

Ma délégation appuie par ailleurs l'approche équilibrée adoptée par l'Organisation pour évaluer les besoins en matière de développement ainsi que les risques écologiques dans le secteur agricole.

S'agissant de moyens à mettre en oeuvre, et tout en notant avec satisfaction que dans ce domaine un certain degré de conformité entre Programme 21 et programme de la FAO a été atteint, et tout en remarquant aussi que la CNUED n'a pas encore permis de mobiliser des ressources nouvelles pour la mise en oeuvre du Programme 21, ma délégation estime qu'il faut examiner et évaluer avec beaucoup d'attention les conséquences de la CNUED pour l'Organisation tant au niveau du budget 1994-95, qu'en ce qui concerne la contribution que devrait apporter la FAO en collaboration avec d'autres institutions au renforcement des capacités nationales dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre d'Action 21.

**Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARVE (Cuba):** Nuestra delegación desea intervenir en este importante tema 7 "Actividades de la FAO relacionadas con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible y las informaciones referidas a la aplicación de la Resolución 2/91 de la 26ª Conferencia de la FAO". En primer lugar deseamos destacar el magnífico documento preparado por la Secretaría que sintetiza los momentos fundamentales de la FAO y la comunidad internacional en torno a estas relevantes actividades y la competente introducción del Sr. Mahler. Agradecemos la presencia y los comentarios del Presidente del Comité del Programa de la FAO.

A nadie escapa la significación de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo que tuvo lugar el pasado junio en la ciudad de Río de Janeiro, Brasil.

Dentro de toda una gama de actividades importantes que han caracterizado el acontecer internacional en el decursar del año 1992, no es posible dejarla de destacar, por su relieve e incidencia y por los futuros efectos que para la humanidad en su conjunto constituyen sus acuerdos y acciones.

En un balance preliminar, se puede considerar que la misma será punto de partida, aunque reconocemos que sus acuerdos y compromisos aún tendrán que transitar por un largo camino empedrado de dificultades.

Indudablemente en algunos aspectos se avanzó, en otros se puso de relieve una penosa realidad que no es más que los abismales intereses que conjugan por separado el norte y el sur. Salió con fuerza a la luz la reiteración de las enormes desigualdades que existen, imposibles de ocultar por evidentes, y la mayoría de nuestros países sentenciaron que sin la eliminación del subdesarrollo, la defensa del medio ambiente resulta difícil e inaplicable. Esta verdad sin duda alguna nos obliga a un sostenido esfuerzo de parte de todos, ya que la humanidad no podrá aspirar a un mañana seguro, si no tiene en cuenta que el elemento fundamental de la especie biológica, el hombre, está en riesgo de desaparecer por la rápida y progresiva liquidación de sus condiciones de vida. Ecología, hombre y desarrollo son indivisibles.

En la última década, el tema del Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo ha pasado de la periferia al centro mismo del debate y en el proceso de toma de decisiones en los países. En este sentido, Sr. Presidente, permítame informar a los participantes a este 102° período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, las nuevas disposiciones acordadas por el 119 período de sesiones del Parlamento de Cuba, denominada Asamblea Nacional en nuestro país, el pasado mes de julio, al discutir las modificaciones propuestas a la Constitución vigente desde 1976. En el Capítulo uno, referida a los fundamentos políticos, sociales y económicos del Estado, la inclusión más relevante fue la reformulación hecha al artículo 11, que trata sobre el ejercicio de la soberanía. Se le agregó un nuevo inciso para subrayar más ampliamente la soberanía sobre el medio ambiente y los recursos naturales del país. El nuevo artículo actualizado dice así: "El Estado protege el medio ambiente y los recursos naturales del país, reconoce la estrecha vinculación de éstos y del desarrollo económico y social sostenido para hacer más racional la vida humana y asegurar la supervivencia, el bienestar y la seguridad de las actuales y futuras generaciones. Corresponde a los órganos competentes aplicar esta política. Es deber de los ciudadanos contribuir a la protección del agua, la atmósfera, la conservación del suelo, la flora, la fauna y todo el rico potencial de la naturaleza".

De esta forma, Cuba se ha convertido en uno de los primeros países en el mundo que contiene en su Constitución o Carta Magna uno de los objetivos de la reciente Cumbre Eco 92 efectuada en Río.

Nuestro país le confiere a estas actividades una prioridad fundamental, es por ello que una vez más apoyamos el Programa 21 de la Conferencia de Río que contiene el Plan de Acción aprobado en dicha Conferencia así como el Convenio Marco sobre los cambios climáticos y el Convenio sobre diversidad biológica, ambos firmados por el Presidente de la República de Cuba en el mismo escenario de la Cumbre.

Cuba en Río sugirió algunas propuestas para la acción y recalcó la necesidad de que los países del sur nos mantuviéramos en consulta permanente sobre la protección y conservación de la biodiversidad y sobre el acceso al desarrollo de las biotecnologías. Debemos mantenernos unidos para lograr el establecimiento de un sistema común de protección legal sobre los recursos genéticos, por la implantación de mecanismos comunes capaces de propiciar el acceso a las biotecnologías desarrolladas, por la creación de asesorías por parte de los países del tercer mundo que muestren mayores avances, por la elaboración de mecanismos comunes de protección contra la introducción en el medio ambiente de organismos modificados que resulten peligrosos y por mayores capacidades de investigación.

Hemos seguido con atención los pasos ulteriores que se han dado en Nueva York con vistas a la creación de la Comisión de Alto Nivel sobre Desarrollo Sostenible sugerida por la Conferencia de Río y confiamos que este mecanismo se encaje positivamente dentro del esquema previsto y que den soluciones viables y sobre todo que juegue su papel.

Nos parece interesante estudiar los planteamientos realizados por la delegación de Suecia con relación a los recursos fitogenéticos, ya que pueden ser importantes para el futuro de la agricultura y la alimentación. Vemos con interés esta Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional. En este sentido conferimos una vez más un papel preponderante a la FAO.

No queremos desaprovechar esta oportunidad para saludar la intervención de Brasil y felicitar a su gobierno por el encomiable esfuerzo realizado para el éxito de la Conferencia de Río.

Finalmente, estamos convencidos de las enormes repercusiones que el Programa 21 tiene para la labor futura de la FAO, por lo que apoyamos cualquier acción de la Organización tendiente a acomodar adecuadamente estos principios y acciones dentro del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1994-1995 y el Plan a Plazo Medio revisado por la FAO para 1994-95. Muchas gracias.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** My delegation has studied the document under consideration and expresses its full satisfaction with the activities undertaken, particularly the preparation of a thorough review of FAO's activities in the field of sustainable development and environment, paragraph 5, as well as FAO's interest in some special cross-sectoral issues, paragraph 7, and the close cooperation existing between FAO and UNEP in the Earthwatch Programme, paragraph 11. We should like in this instance to welcome the positive outcome of the said cooperation in Africa.

Paragraphs 35 to 47 review the streamlining of Special Action Programmes within the framework of international cooperation in the field of sustainable rural and agricultural development. My delegation would like first to see the completion of the review of SAPs. However, we welcome the programmes referred to in paragraph 48 of the said report.

My delegation commends FAO's efforts in the preparatory work for UNCED held in Rio in June 1992.

In conclusion, my delegation welcomes the references made in paragraph 70 to the relationship between FAO and its partners in the implementation of Agenda 21.

We should also like to thank Mr Mahler for his introductory statement and Dr Bommer for his contribution.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Nosotros seremos breves, como lo está solicitando el Presidente y como acostumbramos a hacer, porque pensamos que el documento que está en discusión y en estudio es tan completo, tan satisfactorio que no necesita un análisis específico por nuestra parte para declarar nuestro apoyo.

Queremos, sin embargo, hacer énfasis en la parte segunda, que contienen los párrafos 35 en adelante, refiriéndose a la racionalización de los Programas Especiales de Acción, porque consideramos que aquí está precisamente el centro fundamental de la acción de la FAO en relación con los países en vía de desarrollo. Son estos Programas Especiales de Acción, ajustados a cada una de nuestras realidades a través de los trabajos de campo y de la cooperación técnica la forma en que puede ser efectiva la acción de la FAO en sus fases especiales que son: cooperación y ayuda técnica.

No es necesario analizar ni insistir en la prioridad que tiene para los países en desarrollo esta ayuda en la capacitación de los campesinos, por ejemplo, que es el fallo fundamental de nuestros países, entre los cuales cito el mío en primer lugar. Este fallo consiste en que los verdaderos agricultores, esos que están directamente trabajando la tierra no son las personas con mayor capacitación para ejercer su trabajo, siguen haciéndolo como lo venían haciendo desde hace diez mil años los agricultores que crearon la agricultura en el mundo; esos agricultores a quienes todavía debemos el reconocimiento y que están esperando que allí en el programa de los recursos fitogenéticos, donde está concentrado este punto, declaremos el reconocimiento para esta gente.

Estos agricultores que existen en el mundo subdesarrollado y en el mundo en vías de desarrollo, son precisamente los que necesitan la capacitación técnica de la FAO, a este nivel que ha logrado establecer la FAO de agricultura sostenible y de desarrollo sostenible, porque las grandes empresas que tienen la técnica superior y la técnica más desarrollada ya tienen por sí mismas la capacidad, el financiamiento y todas las posibilidades de hacer una agricultura superdesarrollada, pero la alimentación de los pobres en los países que están siendo víctimas del hambre, de la necesidad, de la malnutrición, no van a ser resueltos sencillamente por la gran agricultura empresarial, necesitan ir al propio terreno en donde cada quien pueda llegar a plantar y producir su propia alimentación, a un nivel ínfimo.

Es aquí en donde la FAO cumple su verdadera función, su verdadera misión y esto solamente puede lograrlo mientras respaldemos su trabajo de campo y mientras hagamos más efectiva esta cooperación técnica a nivel de comunidades. Es por esto por lo que pienso que esta racionalización de los programas especiales de acción merece todo el apoyo de este Consejo para poder ser llevada a cabo. Mientras tanto, podremos seguir haciendo una gran inversión en alta tecnología, en biotecnología, en todo lo que podamos inventar en materia de alta tecnología agrícola o agroindustrial, pero tendremos millones y millones de comunidades en los continentes que habitualmente figuran en las

primeras páginas de los periódicos; en Africa, en Asia, en América Latina, con gente que muere de hambre porque no tiene a su inmediata disposición los alimentos más indispensables, y es para la producción de estos alimentos que no son específicos, pero que son sus alimentos, que tradicionalmente han usado, para lo que necesitamos la ayuda inmediata con esta asistencia técnica mínima, que se ha generalizado en el lenguaje técnico como desarrollo sostenible o como agricultura sostenible.

Por eso, es a este desarrollo sostenible, expresado en este documento al que queremos dar nuestro pleno respaldo.

Queríamos referirnos también a la intervención de la representación de Suecia que por su interés nos parece digna de que resaltemos algunos de los conceptos que emitió y, especialmente, lo referente a los recursos genéticos. Estamos completamente de acuerdo con lo expuesto por la delegación de Suecia sobre la necesidad de conservar estos recursos genéticos, de preservarlos y de utilizarlos racionalmente; pero como estos recursos genéticos no están precisamente en los países más desarrollados, están, por una circunstancia de la naturaleza, en la mayoría de los centros de países menos desarrollados, por eso necesitamos ayudarlos. Esa es la importancia de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica que se prepara para 1995 a la cual queremos dar nuestro apoyo. En este sentido debemos insistir en que la disponibilidad de los recursos genéticos no puede ser abierta, sin control y con libre acceso.

Debemos reconocer que los países a quienes la naturaleza dotó y todavía preservan estos recursos genéticos, tienen una soberanía que respetar, y que sólo se pueden regir por normas que se establezcan para el uso de estos recursos genéticos. Asimismo, debemos dejar claro que al apoyar a Suecia en cuanto a esta protección de los recursos fitogenéticos, nosotros no sólo estamos de acuerdo con su conservación, sino también con su uso racional, sometido a estas normas que hemos referido.

En este sentido apoyamos una vez más al compromiso establecido por la FAO y al fondo que ese compromiso sugiere, ya que es la única manera en que los países sin recursos, pero con esta posesión de los recursos fitogenéticos pueden ponerlos a disposición de la humanidad para su uso racional. Dejamos así satisfecha nuestra mayor preocupación y ratificamos nuestro apoyo al excelente documento que estamos estudiando fijando nuestra posición en relación con los recursos fitogenéticos.

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

As this is the first time I take the floor, allow me to express my happiness at seeing you preside over our Council, Mr Chairman. Through you, I should like to express my congratulations to our three Vice-Chairmen.

I should like to thank Mr Mahler for his excellent introduction to the document under consideration. I should also like to commend the new information we have received, especially as far as the meeting of the various agencies for sustainable development is concerned.

I also wish to reiterate the fact that my country gives great importance to the issue of environment and sustainable development. We take the necessary steps to give the necessary priority to each subject, in order to keep sight of their real importance. Priorities may differ from one country to another. This is what we have noticed, as far as the SAPs are concerned.

The Kingdom has given water and soil resources great attention for the conservation and sustainability of these resources. Therefore, we have set up many desalination plants in order to provide drinking water from the sea to various cities at a cost almost equalling the price of the extraction of ground water. We have also built dams; we now have 200 dams which are directed towards alimenter underground water and increasing arable land. We have also set up plants for the purification of water.

As far as the document under consideration is concerned, we welcome its contents, especially the information on the integration of the criteria of sustainability in the Programme of Work of the Organization, particularly with regard to the gradual and balanced methodology of this integration process. In this context, we support paragraph 9 on the improvement of the model for assessing the population carrying capacity. It is expected that, at the completion of the study, we will have the necessary information for a practical and realistic study.

We should like to reiterate our satisfaction with the integration of the criteria on sustainable development and environment in field programmes and projects.

As far as streamlining SAPs is concerned, we welcome the thorough review and rationalization process which is taking place currently. We endorse the contents of paragraph 45.

Our attention was also drawn to paragraph 48, part 8, with regard to integrated pest management, especially biological control. We hope that developing countries will be able to benefit from this technology.

As far as financing is concerned, we think that being realistic is a very important element in this respect. Aspirations, of course, are great, but we look forward to the cooperation of all. We look for a leading role by FAO in this field, as we consider it the most competent authority. Yet we welcome the continued effort of streamlining in order to avoid duplication.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** La Côte d'Ivoire accorde une importance toute spéciale aux questions liées à l'environnement. Mon pays a en effet participé, au plus haut niveau, au Sommet qui s'est tenu aux Pays-Bas, puis à la rencontre de Bois-le-Duc et enfin au récent Sommet planétaire à Rio.

Mon Gouvernement comprend en son sein un Ministère de l'environnement qui n'est pas du tout la manifestation d'une mode mais bien l'illustration d'une prise de conscience que le développement global de l'humanité ne peut ignorer la dimension écologique des problèmes auxquels nous sommes confrontés. C'est donc pour toutes ces raisons que nous avons accordé à l'examen de ce document toute l'attention requise.

Je voudrais d'abord dire que ma délégation partage l'essentiel des conclusions contenues dans le document CL 102/6, qui nous a été présenté hier par M. Mahler. Nous souhaiterions répondre aux deux principales questions posées par le Secrétariat: d'une part, au plan du suivi de la CNUED et, d'autre part, au plan de la rationalisation des programmes d'action spéciaux.



En ce qui concerne le suivi de la CNUED, ma délégation précise que les domaines prioritaires sont à ses yeux ceux relatifs à la lutte contre la sécheresse et la désertification et la foresterie, tel que précisé au paragraphe 69 du document qui nous est soumis. Il va sans dire que cela nécessitera de la part du Secrétariat un redéploiement de ses activités et surtout une augmentation de ses ressources en vue de répondre efficacement aux sollicitations de nos pays, qui ne vont pas manquer.

Mon pays se félicite de constater que le Programme "Action 21" de la CNUED et les programmes d'action spéciaux de la FAO revêtent beaucoup de similitudes. C'est ici le lieu de souligner, s'il en était encore besoin, la compétence reconnue des fonctionnaires de la FAO, notamment dans ce domaine particulier des forêts. Il appartiendra donc à nos gouvernements de prendre les initiatives pour renforcer l'appui de tous les partenaires à la FAO dans ce contexte.

Mon pays apprécie hautement les déclarations de la France, de l'Allemagne, du Japon et d'autres qui ont pris la décision de doubler, voire tripler, leurs efforts financiers pour répondre positivement aux engagements pris dans ce sens à Rio et qui, par ailleurs, ont également appuyé sans ambages le PAFT.

En entendant les conclusions du CAC, ma délégation a été encore une fois très sensible à l'intervention faite hier par l'Allemagne, qui n'a pas caché la coresponsabilité des pays développés dans la dégradation actuelle de l'environnement.

Je voudrais maintenant répondre à la seconde préoccupation du Secrétariat, à savoir la rationalisation des PAS. Sur ce chapitre, nous partageons pleinement les suggestions de mise en place des PAS conformément au Programme "Action 21", et en priorité quatre d'entre eux: le programme d'action forestier tropical modernisé, le programme en faveur des pêches responsables durables, le programme de lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs, et le programme de sécurité alimentaire incluant, bien sûr, les conclusions qui seront dégagées à l'issue de la toute prochaine conférence internationale sur la nutrition qui se tiendra, ici même, dans trois semaines.

Dans cet ordre d'idées, j'ai l'avantage de proposer au Secrétariat que des experts des pays en développement particulièrement intéressés par un PAS spécifique soient associés par la FAO non seulement à la supervision, comme le préconise le document, mais aussi à la préparation du PAS lui-même.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de vous faire partager maintenant, ainsi qu'au Conseil, un autre sentiment de ma délégation. En effet, certains de nos collègues ont reproché au Secrétariat de n'avoir rien dit ou presque sur les liens qui existent entre l'environnement et la démographie. Cela n'est pas inexact. Loin de nous cette idée encore que, comme vous le savez, des pays parmi les plus peuplés ont su gérer et préserver leur environnement de manière satisfaisante en réussissant même leur politique en matière d'autosuffisance alimentaire dont peuvent s'inspirer bien d'autres pays en développement.

Ce que je voudrais vous faire partager, c'est qu'il y a aussi et avant tout un lien catégorique entre l'environnement et la pauvreté. Quelle réceptivité espérez-vous obtenir auprès du paysan africain démuné, souvent affamé, qui est obligé de couper du bois pour se loger, pour se nourrir et pour obtenir de maigres subsides lui permettant d'envoyer ses enfants à l'école? La destruction de l'environnement est également due aux conflits armés qui

éclatent ça et là, en Afrique, en Amérique latine, en Asie et maintenant en Europe de l'Est, conflits meurtriers et dévastateurs à la fois pour l'espèce humaine et pour la nature.

En même temps qu'il faut mettre en oeuvre, au plan national, des politiques de planification familiale que l'on nous conseille, il faut surtout prendre, selon nous, des mesures notamment de justice dans le commerce international des produits agricoles, outre les mesures indispensables pour que l'aide publique au développement atteigne les niveaux fixés par les Nations Unies. Je ne vous cache pas notre dépit très profond lorsque nous apprenons que des déchets toxiques produits sur d'autres continents sont déversés en Afrique, souvent à notre insu, parfois avec l'assentiment de certains responsables. C'est une attitude qui est de toute façon condamnable et que la communauté internationale doit combattre par des mesures et des décisions pratiques afin de sauvegarder l'environnement.

A l'occasion du débat du Conseil sur ce point, il nous est apparu opportun d'évoquer cette question en espérant que les uns et les autres auront bien situé leurs responsabilités et que, tous, nous sachions exactement ce que nous avons à faire pour réaliser l'objectif commun qui est, en définitive, celui de vivre dans un environnement sain - et cela non seulement pour nous-mêmes mais surtout pour les générations futures.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** La délégation du Liban aimerait remercier M. Mahler pour sa présentation du document concernant les activités de la FAO relatives au développement durable et à l'environnement. Cette présentation a été très claire et satisfaisante. J'aimerais aussi le remercier pour les informations qu'il nous a fournies au sujet de la CNUED qui a eu lieu dernièrement à Rio et à laquelle la FAO a participé, au plus haut niveau, avec la délégation présidée par le Directeur général.

Je voudrais également féliciter M. Bommer, Président du Comité du Programme, pour les informations supplémentaires qu'il nous a fournies. Nous ne devons pas oublier non plus de remercier le Secrétariat pour le document qui nous a été soumis.

Il ne fait aucun doute que la FAO doit jouer un rôle très important dans le domaine du développement durable et de l'environnement. L'Organisation - et nous l'en remercions - a déjà fait beaucoup dans ce domaine et nous appuyons sans réserve toutes les activités qu'elle entreprendra à l'avenir ainsi que le suivi des décisions de la CNUED qui s'est tenue à Rio.

Dernièrement, le Gouvernement libanais a réaffirmé l'importance de l'environnement et de la protection de l'homme et de la nature. Nous avons ainsi créé récemment un Ministère de l'environnement et nous essayons actuellement de mettre sur pied une équipe technique pour que ce ministère puisse accomplir au mieux sa tâche. Nous sommes certains que la FAO fournira au Gouvernement libanais l'aide technique et les conseils nécessaires pour permettre à ce Ministère de l'environnement de commencer son travail.

**Russell MULELE (Zambia):** First, permit me to thank you, Mr Chairman, on behalf of my delegation, and the Secretariat for the quality and brevity of the document, and for the clarity of its introduction yesterday.

The Zambian delegation notes with satisfaction the steps taken so far by FAO to integrate sustainability criteria in its programmes and activities, and to streamline its Special Action Programmes within its field programmes. Accordingly, we applaud the Director-General's efforts in this regard.

Zambia, like several countries, regards environmental matters very seriously. It is for this reason that the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources was created, principally to formulate policies and to coordinate matters related to environmental pollution and natural resources utilization and management. The implementation activities are carried out through the National Environmental Council which has just been put in place. I need to state that for us to forge ahead in matters of environment, we require support in the form of finance, material and human resources, so as to be able to strengthen our capabilities. Special support is required in the development of a legal framework, the setting up of a natural resources databank, the strengthening of the capacity in natural resources monitoring, the building up of the capacity in environmental impact assessments and improvement of inter-sectoral coordination at policy level. Needless to say, at the grass-roots level people's active participation is crucial. It is important to note that, as we talk of sustainable agriculture and environment, it may be naive, or indeed too much, to expect a poor man or a hungry man to protect natural resources when he is more concerned about his immediate needs than about his future, let alone about the environment. This point was adequately addressed by the Brundtland Commission, and it cannot therefore be overstressed. The point we are making here is that it is important to develop and implement meaningful projects aimed at improving the quality of life of the rural poor.

Before concluding our brief intervention, we would like to state that we have taken special note of the support indicated by member countries to assist developing countries to enhance their institutional capacities to be able to deal with their management of natural resources. In particular, we have taken note of the offers and pledges made by Germany and the Scandinavian countries.

Finally, my delegation wishes to endorse in principle the proposed follow-up actions outlined in paragraphs 69 and 70.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** Mr Chairman, I wish to assure you that this intervention will be as small as the size of my delegation and the size of my country.

Document CL 102/6 attests to the seriousness with which the FAO has been addressing and continues to address the challenges posed by this increasingly important issue of environmental development. It also indicates the responsiveness of the Organization to the mandates given by the Governing Bodies, for example Resolution 3/89 and 2/91. We must congratulate the Organization for the excellent document we have before us.

The issues that we address in the document are quite complex and complicated and call for action not only at the international level but at local, national and regional level, and in all of this within the area of its mandate, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, the Organization has to create a niche for itself in collaboration with nations and in collaboration with other organizations that have mandates that interact and interface.

In respect of the efforts being made in my own area and in my own country, which call for support at the international level, I wish to take this opportunity to raise but two initiatives for this forum. One, an exercise that is engaging the attention of the small island states within the CARICOM at which Ministers of Agriculture, at their recent meeting in June, endorsed the need to establish a technical cooperative network for biosystematics to support agricultural development, environmental protection and conservation of genetic resources in its sub-region. I submit that that is an initiative worthy of support and consonant with the continuing interest in the area of environmental sustainability and the management of natural resources. I appeal to the international community to hear this call coming from the Caribbean Region.

I should also like to draw to the attention of the Council an initiative that my country has been struggling with for over 60 years. It relates to the maintenance, conservation and preservation of the cocoa germplasm. We have an international cocoa gene bank in Trinidad and Tobago, and with modest financial resources out of its national budget my country has over recent years, assisted by the EEC, been struggling to maintain the integrity of this cocoa gene bank. I need not indicate to this gathering its importance to the overall development of the cocoa industry.

We support the approach that has been adopted by the Organization in terms of integrating sustainability criteria in its programmes and projects, and in its activities. On balance, we agree that much effort has to be spent in advising countries like ourselves in the area of policy and planning, and in the field programmes and projects which are needed for the advancement of agriculture in our several countries. However, in this regard I wish also to submit that my country is very much interested to be included among those who might be considered for policy and planning studies, to enlarge the framework of case studies that might assist in the development of methodologies and guidelines for action in this regard.

With respect to the field projects and programmes, I wish to submit that the broad strategy has to be one of prevention and rehabilitation in terms of broad strategy, so that while I agree that as a matter of urgency whatever we do from now on should reflect these criteria, these guidelines and concerns, we may well have to so some re-examination of some of those actions and activities we have in the field in the course of normal monitoring of programmes and activities. I wish to submit this for the consideration of the Organization.

My delegation also supports the coherent approach being adopted in terms of the SAPs. We see this as part of the strategic thinking that has been invested in the way the Organization is operating, and therefore it cannot be delinked from the Medium-Term Programme and the Programme of Work and Budget. In that regard, therefore, it has to be tied to resource availability, both the in-house capacity of the Organization and, of course, the financial resources; and the whole question of priority setting clearly comes into play. That is why in this regard we support the views that have been indicated by Hungary, India and Canada in terms of some kind of schema that will allow us to determine how we attach our priorities.

One of the matters that I feel we must look at in terms of the priorities - having determined that agriculture, forestry and fisheries is important, and having determined that in some schema certain areas are of greater interest

to the Organization, are of lesser interest and marginal interest, and so on -is the area in which, in all of this, there is likely to be the greatest impact in terms of any initiative this Organization can become involved in. I think that that has to be one of the guidelines and criteria that we must use in determining how the Organization must respond to the several calls that will be made upon it.

I have three final observations. One concerns the documentation coming out of UNCED, which is very voluminous and mind-boggling. It might well be necessary for the Organization to assist some of us with limited in-house capacity to, as it were, provide a map to take us through that documentation, to allow us to understand best how we may utilize it to guide further action at the national level.

Another observation relates to some of the commentary that might have been made in respect to the modernization of agriculture. I wish merely to indicate that there are traditional technologies that have been with our farmers for centuries, that have stood the test of time and met the criterion of sustainability. We may wish to look at these.

Finally, I have a comment in respect of the organizational change, merely to remind you that we have had a very in-depth examination of this Organization, culminating with the report to Conference in 1989 which was the source of tremendous debate and consensus. Notwithstanding what has taken place in related agencies of the United Nations system which may now find it necessary to do a similar exercise, I would merely wish to advise and suggest that perhaps it may not be necessary to expend excessive energy in that direction and focus more on getting on with what our act is all about, and perhaps fine-tuning what we do within the context of more recent information and more recent paradigms.

**T.A. ANUMUDU (Observer for Nigeria):** I thank you, Mr Chairman, for this opportunity to contribute to the discussion on this very important subject of integrating sustainability criteria in FAO's programmes and activities.

The paper CL 102/6, seeks the Council's approval of steps already taken by the Secretariat to give effect to the UNCED resolutions and also to seek guidance for follow-up action.

It is important to put in focus the normal role of the FAO in order not to lose bearing in the vortex of attractive but unrelated aspects of the new operational areas thrown up by the Rio Conference.

When the FAO argues that its main thrust would be directed at the basic activities, perspective studies, and advisory services on policy, one cannot but agree with them. It is clear beyond doubt that the technical issues encompassed in the Rio Declaration would require expertise of the most diverse kind. It should also be borne in mind that there are already UN organizations whose specific mandates relate to some of these matters. One such organization that comes to mind Mr Chairman, is the IMO, the International Maritime Organization.

You may recall that in our discussion yesterday on responsible fishing, Mr Chairman, reference was made in the Secretariat's summary of the discussion to the existing Maritime guidelines on safety at sea, and so on. These are

matters related to the IMO. It seems to me also that in many other areas, other UN agencies may have a vital role to play; in which case the contribution of the FAO would be complementary to such efforts in the hope that our Organization would concentrate on its primary objectives.

Let me refer to section 11 of the documents which deals with streamlining of the Special Action Programmes. The SAPs were priority areas of concern to many of our countries, and one of such SAPs projects is the TFAP. Our anxiety on the rationalization proposals stems from the premise that in any exercise on rationalization it is the weakest element that is either dropped, downgraded or merged with other programmes. As we have been informed, the TFAP does not appear to have made the necessary or expected impact. We fear that in any rationalization exercise the TFAP may well turn out to be the first casualty. This would be a disservice, for, to us, the TFAP is a programme that we very much look forward to and wish earnestly for its effective implementation.

It is our plea, therefore, that the TFAP be strengthened by a favourable infusion of resources in men, that is expertise, and finance to enable it to serve the needs of our economies.

My last point is on the relationship between FAO and other UN agencies in so far as the realization of the resolutions of UNCED and Rio are concerned. We believe this matter should be handled with great finesse, for if, as the paper seems to indicate in section IV, a follow-up action of a greater proportion of available resources is turned over to the UNDP or another of the agencies, one would wonder how your Organization could cope with the very many new programmes that are to be passed to it as a result of the Rio resolutions.

Clarification of this issue is very important to us who face serious ecological disabilities in the form of desertification, drought, erosion and toxic waste dumping on our terrain and who would hopefully turn to the FAO for assistance to tackle these problems.

We seek this opportunity to appeal to the international community, particularly the donor countries and the multilateral agencies, to recognize the increased responsibilities devolving on your Organization and fund it adequately so that it does not lose potency and effectiveness by spreading resources too thinly over an enlarged operational base.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous en arrivons maintenant à la clôture du débat général sur le point 7 de notre ordre du jour. Je demanderai au Dr Mahler de répondre à un certain nombre de questions en le priant instamment de ne pas aborder la question des pêches qui a été examinée de manière très complète au cours du très intéressant débat d'hier et peut-être de laisser à demain le thème concernant la forêt, c'est-à-dire le PAFT.

Nous tiendrons compte bien sûr des réflexions qui ont été faites mais en tout état de cause l'examen du Plan d'action forestier tropical, comme cela a été indiqué lundi matin, lors de la première session du Conseil, aura lieu demain après-midi.

Concernant la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, nous traiterons ce point après "les faits nouveaux survenus dans la famille des Nations Unies" en fin d'après-midi. Après l'intervention du Dr Mahler qui va s'efforcer de répondre aux très nombreuses questions qui ont

été posées, je me permettrai peut-être de demander au Dr Bommer, que je remercie tout particulièrement d'avoir bien voulu assister à cet intéressant débat, de nous faire part de ses considérations et avis toujours précieux.

**P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général, Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable):** Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, de me simplifier la tâche. Mes remerciements vont aussi aux nombreuses délégations qui ont bien voulu prendre la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. Elles ont été presque quarante. Je crois que ces délégations ont exprimé leur satisfaction générale, et je me risquerais à dire unanime, quant aux mesures qui ont été prises par le Directeur général sur les trois plans qui sont traités dans les trois parties respectivement du rapport: introduction des critères de durabilité, rationalisation des Programmes d'action spéciaux et participation de la FAO à la CNUED et son suivi.

Je crois que ces délégations ont ainsi réaffirmé la priorité qui s'était déjà exprimée à la Conférence pour l'Organisation, en ce qui concerne l'environnement et le développement durable pour le moyen terme, et aussi pour les programmes de travail et budget futurs.

Il y a eu de très nombreuses remarques et suggestions, et nous essaierons de les résumer dans le projet de rapport. Ces orientations seront extrêmement utiles pour la continuation de nos activités en 1993 et pour la préparation du Programme de travail et budget 1994-95, et pour la coopération que nous allons poursuivre avec nos pays membres et avec les autres institutions du système des Nations Unies.

La première partie du document - c'est indiqué aux paragraphes 6 et 7 - n'a volontairement pas traité avec beaucoup de détails les aspects techniques, mais nous avons été heureux de recevoir des confirmations des priorités de l'Organisation dans un certain nombre de domaines techniques. Monsieur le Président, vous avez parlé des aspects de la foresterie, des pêches, je n'y reviendrai pas. Mais de nombreuses délégations ont appuyé nos activités aussi sur la fertilité des sols, les ressources génétiques animales et végétales, notamment l'appui à la préparation et à la tenue d'une grande Conférence sur les ressources phytogénétiques, l'appui à ARTEMIS, mais également l'appui à des activités plus fonctionnelles de l'Organisation: la recherche, la vulgarisation, la formation et en particulier la formation de notre personnel de terrain mais aussi du personnel des institutions nationales, sans oublier aussi, comme l'a dit Madame la Représentante du Venezuela, les petits agriculteurs qui sont au coeur de ces problèmes. Je pourrais mentionner aussi la lutte biologique, etc. Nous avons noté toutes ces confirmations.

Le délégué des Pays-Bas, soutenu par le représentant du Canada, nous a posé des questions sur les études d'impact des projets sur l'environnement. Le délégué des Pays-Bas a parlé de "stand-still" de nos activités.

Pour parler d'impact, je crois que nous avons là un impact des problèmes financiers que nous avons rencontrés durant cette année, et j'ai le regret de dire qu'il nous a fallu pendant quelque temps geler le poste qui s'occupait de cette question. Il a maintenant été rétabli, et nous sommes actuellement dans la phase de recrutement. Mais c'est un des impacts que nous avons eus de nos problèmes financiers. Toutefois, je pourrais signaler quand même que nous avons fait un test de ces méthodologies sur plus de 35 projets, 70 autres projets qui ont été jugés avoir eu un impact positif ont été analysés pour

voir quels étaient les critères de succès et nous en tirons maintenant des indicateurs de durabilité. Nous espérons distiller tout cela dans une note pour notre personnel de terrain, de façon à aider à la formulation de projets de développement durable. Le document parle aussi de la révision du CAPPA. Tout cela participe de la même activité.

Un certain nombre de délégations, notamment les délégations de la France et de la Côte d'Ivoire, ont parlé des questions de population. Vous savez que dans le système des Nations Unies il y a une Organisation qui est le Fonds mondial pour la population, qui est le point focal. Mais je suis heureux de confirmer que cette Organisation a une coopération étroite avec nous, qu'elle finance des postes à la FAO, et récemment un poste pour les études des relations entre la population et l'environnement dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Je rappellerai aussi que nous reprenons les études de capacités de charge démographique des terres avec l'Université d'Oxford. C'est là un exemple de coopération avec le PNUE, puisqu'il nous aide à financer ces activités. Ces aspects de la population ne sont donc absolument pas négligés.

J'en viens à la deuxième partie du document. Je crois que tous les intervenants ont soutenu l'effort du Directeur général de focaliser, de rationaliser, de rendre plus efficace notre programme de terrain dans certains domaines. Mais je voudrais quand même rappeler que les programmes d'action spéciaux ne constituent pas la totalité de nos programmes de terrain et je pense qu'ils ne le seront pas à l'avenir. Ils constituent peut-être 30 à 40 pour cent des programmes de terrain. Le programme de terrain doit répondre à des requêtes spécifiques des gouvernements, et il n'est pas question d'imposer un choix des réponses de l'Organisation à des requêtes d'assistance technique limitées uniquement à ces domaines des PAS. Mais un processus est lancé pour être plus sélectif, plus pointu, si je puis dire. C'est l'objet de cette rationalisation. J'ai noté d'ailleurs qu'il y a eu un appui général sur les cinq domaines de concentrations des PAS, qui ont été proposés par le Directeur général.

Est-ce qu'il faudrait plus de programmes d'action spéciaux que ceux qui sont actuellement proposés dans le document? J'ai indiqué que le Directeur général n'a pas terminé son examen. Nous attendons les résultats de la Conférence sur la nutrition. Le Représentant de la Hongrie a demandé quels sont les programmes qui vont être abolis. Je peux déjà vous dire à ce stade qu'un certain nombre des programmes d'action spéciaux qui existaient vont être abolis et d'autres fusionnés. Le document indique la fusion de certains d'entre eux. Mais nous n'avons pas jugé opportun de présenter les abolitions à ce stade, parce que nous aurions sans doute ouvert un débat sur la priorité de tel ou tel de ces programmes qui devraient être abolis ou qui ne devraient pas être abolis. Je vous demande de laisser le Secrétariat poursuivre ce processus. Nous tiendrons compte des avis donnés ici notamment pour l'aménagement des zones côtières et aussi les problèmes des petits Etats insulaires. Mais je voudrais rappeler qu'un programme d'action spécial est essentiellement une famille de projets qui doivent être suffisamment importants en nombre et en volume de financement pour justifier un traitement spécial quant à leur gestion et à leur appui technique. Cela a été un des critères principaux pour juger si, dans certains domaines, nous avons un grand nombre de projets qui nous permettraient d'avoir un programme d'action spécial ou de ne pas en avoir. Mais nous avons noté les interventions par le Bangladesh, les Pays nordiques, le Mexique, le Kenya et le Chili sur cette question.



J'en viens maintenant à la troisième partie qui concerne la CNUED et l'analyse de l'Agenda 21 et de ses retombées sur la FAO.

L'Agenda 21 est un volume de 500 pages. C'est un document qui a été préparé pendant deux ans et nous devons en faire l'analyse et l'exégèse. Comme l'a rappelé le distingué délégué de la Suède et d'autres délégués, c'est d'abord un document qui s'adresse aux gouvernements. Nous nous attendons à ce que la Commission du développement durable demande aux gouvernements de rendre compte des actions qu'ils prendront à ce sujet. D'ailleurs, un certain nombre de gouvernements sont déjà en train de mettre sur pied des Agenda 21 nationaux, et c'est peut-être là où certains programmes d'action spéciaux de la FAO, qui ont trait aux politiques et aux plans agricoles, le plan forestier tropical et d'autres, peuvent contribuer, si les pays en font la demande, à l'élaboration de ces plans d'action 21 nationaux. Nous sommes prêts à répondre à des requêtes de ce genre dans la mesure de nos moyens.

Au-dessus du niveau national il y a les aspects régionaux, comme l'a rappelé le délégué de la Libye qui a demandé s'il va y avoir aussi des occasions pour les gouvernements de traiter de ces questions au niveau régional. Je rappellerai, comme l'a fait le Mexique, que nous avons déjà tenu des réunions interministérielles régionales sur l'agriculture durable. Nous en avons tenu une pour les petits Etats insulaires, et si les moyens nous le permettent, nous envisageons d'en tenir une aussi pour le Proche-Orient, et pour d'autres régions. Ces réunions avaient été tenues grâce à des ressources extrabudgétaires fournies par l'Australie, la Norvège, la Hollande. Je tiens à les remercier ici. Nous chercherons à répondre aussi aux demandes d'autres régions de la même manière.

En ce qui concerne le niveau international et le rôle de la FAO, j'ai entendu que l'on nous demande d'être à la fois sélectif et holistique! Certaines délégations ont jugé que, dans notre analyse de l'Agenda 21, le nombre de rubriques concernant la FAO dépassait les quatre-vingts que nous avions annoncés. Je suis d'accord, mais il faut choisir. Je peux confirmer à la délégation du Canada que l'approche sélective qu'il nous a suggérée est en effet déjà mise en oeuvre. Le Directeur général a demandé à chaque unité de la FAO d'examiner le Programme d'action 21 et nous avons déjà des indications des domaines dans lesquels nous jugeons que nous avons un rôle de chef de file. D'ailleurs, de très nombreuses délégations ont confirmé que dans certains domaines de nos mandats nous avons un rôle de chef de file. Pour d'autres domaines, nous sommes simplement partenaires d'autres institutions, et pour certains domaines nous nous contentons de suivre ce qui se fait ailleurs et de garder un "watching brief".

Cette approche sélective à l'intérieur de notre secrétariat nous nous proposons de la suivre aussi sur le plan interinstitutions. A cette fin, l'équipe spéciale du CAC, présidée par le Directeur général, a établi des critères, des éléments d'analyse pour ce qu'on appelle l'avantage comparatif. On en parle depuis très longtemps dans de multiples enceintes. Ce groupe a fait un effort pour identifier ce que cela veut dire et a transmis dans son rapport au CAC des propositions pour faciliter la distribution du travail et le partage des responsabilités pour l'Agenda 21.

De nombreuses délégations ont indiqué que la FAO doit jouer un rôle de chef de file également pour la coordination et la coopération dans certains domaines avec d'autres institutions, c'est-à-dire dans les domaines de notre mandat. De même, le PNUE a un rôle de chef de file pour la coordination en

matière d'environnement. Le PNUD l'a pour la coordination des activités de développement du système des Nations Unies au niveau national. On s'oriente donc vers une sorte de distribution du travail également en matière de coordination en essayant d'identifier quelles sont les institutions chefs de file, ou points focaux, autour desquelles la coordination pour la mise en oeuvre de l'Agenda 21 devrait se faire. Nous avons franchi une première étape, mais le gros du travail reste à faire, par ce comité interagences pour le développement durable, qui vient d'être établi par le CAC, et qui devrait se réunir dans les mois qui viennent pour faire un premier rapport au CAC au mois d'avril prochain.

Un certain nombre de délégations ont abordé la question du financement du suivi de la CNUED. Ce débat a déjà eu lieu à la Conférence. Je me permettrai d'attirer l'attention sur ce qu'avait dit la Conférence, certaines délégations jugeant qu'il y aura des coûts supplémentaires, d'autres pensant qu'on pourrait absorber ces coûts. J'indiquerai que le CAC au mois d'octobre, lorsqu'il s'est réuni, a conclu qu'il fallait attirer l'attention de l'Assemblée générale sur les besoins supplémentaires de financement, tout en renouvelant sa disposition à essayer d'absorber le plus possible le coût de la mise en oeuvre de l'Agenda 21. Ils ont confirmé qu'il y aurait un certain besoin de ressources supplémentaires pour la mise en oeuvre de l'Agenda 21 par les pays eux-mêmes, mais aussi pour les institutions des Nations Unies.

A ce sujet, nous sommes heureux d'avoir reçu ici la confirmation de la part d'un certain nombre de pays, la France, le Japon, l'Allemagne notamment, de leur disponibilité à fournir des ressources supplémentaires comme ils l'avaient annoncé à Rio de Janeiro.

Je voudrais attirer aussi l'attention des délégations sur les nouvelles sources de financement, le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial et aussi le programme du PNUD appelé "Capacité 21" (c'est un programme de renforcement des capacités nationales pour l'exécution des projets pour l'Agenda 21). Ces deux nouvelles sources de fonds seront, je pense, pour les institutions nationales, les Ministères de l'agriculture, des forêts, des pêches, des sources additionnelles de financement et non pas seulement pour les Ministères de l'environnement. Ce sera le cas notamment pour la mise en oeuvre des deux grandes Conventions internationales qui viennent d'être signées à Rio, la Convention internationale pour la biodiversité et celle pour le changement de climat. L'agriculture est intéressée et concernée par ces deux questions. Je crois qu'il y a là une possibilité, pour les pays qui le souhaitent, d'obtenir des appuis du système des Nations Unies, y compris de la FAO, à travers ces sources additionnelles.

Il y a eu des questions posées sur ce qui va suivre après Rio au sujet de la désertification et en particulier de la négociation d'une convention internationale sur la désertification, et quelle pourrait être la position de la FAO dans ce domaine.

Je dirai d'abord que la désertification est parfois considérée comme un problème d'environnement, mais c'est d'abord, dans les pays qui en souffrent, un problème de pauvreté, de manque de développement. La réponse pour combattre la désertification est de promouvoir un développement rural intégré. C'est là notre approche. Il ne suffit pas de se battre contre l'avancée du désert, il faut développer des systèmes de développement durable dans ces régions. La FAO a depuis longtemps un grand nombre d'activités dans ce domaine. Si on nous le demande, nous ferons certainement profiter de notre expérience et de notre

expertise le Comité de négociation qui va être sans doute établi par l'Assemblée générale. Il est probable que nous serons sollicités pour aider le Secrétariat de ce Comité de négociation avec notre Bureau juridique et nos services techniques, comme nous l'avons fait pour la Convention internationale sur la diversité biologique.

Quant au suivi des efforts qui ont été conduits sous l'égide du Directeur général en matière de coordination au CAC, que va-t-il se passer dans les mois qui viennent? J'en ai déjà parlé. Je voudrais ajouter que ce Comité de coordination interagences pour le développement durable devra se réunir au niveau de sous-directeurs généraux et je m'attends à ce que mes collègues et partenaires d'autres institutions et moi-même nous nous réunissions pour continuer les efforts que nous avons amorcés cet été en matière de distribution du travail, de coordination et de partage des responsabilités. Monsieur le Président, je tiens à m'excuser à l'avance si après une longue réponse je n'ai pas éclairci toutes les questions. Le Secrétariat se tient à disposition des délégations qui voudraient poser des questions particulières après la séance.

Au nom du Directeur général, je souhaite exprimer toute la reconnaissance et la satisfaction du Secrétariat pour l'appui que le Conseil a bien voulu donner à nos activités et à nos propositions.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Je remercie particulièrement M. Mahler des réponses très complètes qu'il vient de donner aux nombreuses questions qui ont été posées. Bien sûr, il n'y a pas eu de réponse à toutes les questions, il s'agit là d'une impossibilité dans un domaine aussi vaste.

Avant de conclure, je vais donner la parole à M. Bommer, Président du Comité du Programme.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** I am afraid I must disappoint you because I do not have any very wise thoughts to offer at the moment. I would simply assure the Council, on behalf of the Programme Committee, that the outcome of this debate will very much determine our work in the Programme Committee as to how we shall work with the Secretariat during the coming year in developing the new Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 on the aspect of integration of the follow-up of UNCED. It was very important for me to be with you all this time and to listen to the wide-ranging and very interesting debate.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Je ne vais pas faire une synthèse de l'ensemble de la discussion. Je crois qu'elle a été très complète, qu'elle a bien éclairé le Secrétariat sur les souhaits du Conseil et qu'elle a constitué un nouveau départ pour les activités du Comité du Programme, comme vient de le souligner le Président de ce Comité, que je remercie une fois de plus d'avoir bien voulu assister à l'ensemble du débat concernant ce point important de l'ordre du jour.

Il est clair, que si des questions restent en suspens, M. Mahler est à la disposition de tous les membres du Conseil pour leur fournir éventuellement un complément de réponses, ici ou ailleurs, à l'occasion des contacts qu'il a avec l'ensemble des membres du Conseil.

Je voudrais une fois de plus remercier spécialement le Japon pour l'ouverture que ce pays a annoncé en ce qui concerne le suivi de la Conférence de Rio.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions, je vais déclarer clos l'examen du point 7 de l'ordre du jour.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.



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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 102/PV/8

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102º período de sesiones

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING  
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1992)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30

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

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas

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

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

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

9. Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO

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

9. Novedades recientes en el sistema de la Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare ouverte la huitième séance plénière de notre session. Nous allons commencer par le point 9 de notre ordre du jour: "Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies qui intéressent la FAO: pour examen et éventuellement décision (CL 102/12)".

En ce qui concerne ce point, je vous rappelle que la déclaration de compétence reprise dans le document CL 102/INF/19 prévoit que la Communauté économique européenne a, en la matière, une compétence mixte avec ses Etats Membres; elle a le droit de parler mais le droit de voter reste entre les mains des membres.

Cet après-midi nous avons donc deux points à examiner, le point 9 auquel je viens de faire allusion et le point 8 qui est le "Troisième rapport intérimaire sur le Programme d'action de la CMRADR et suite à donner à l'Etude de la décennie suivant la CMRADR: pour examen et éventuellement décisions (CL 102/8)".

Nous allons commencer par le document CL 102/12 qui est l'unique document sur le point 9. Je salue la présence de Mme Killingsworth qui va immédiatement vous présenter le document CL 102/12: "Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies".

**Ms K. KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for External Relations):** Mr Chairman, as you know, Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO is a standing item on the Agenda of the Council as well as of the Conference. As there have occasionally been some misunderstandings about the purpose and the rationale for this Item, and about the content of the document which the Secretariat submits, I think it may be desirable to give some preliminary explanations to clarify matters.

The purpose of the item has always been to keep you abreast of developments in the United Nations system which would have implications for the work of the Organization, and for this reason we tend to say that it is primarily an item for information. Of course, this does not mean that the Council is not expected to discuss the matters contained in the document. The Council is, of course, free to discuss and express its views on the issues covered, but it is important to clarify that some of these matters are, in fact, still under consideration in other fora (in which FAO's Member Nations are also represented). On some of the matters, decisions (which we could report) have not yet been taken and no action by the Council is requested at this point. This is why the document which is before you, CL 102/12, contains a purely factual narrative, without views, analysis and recommendations from the Secretariat, in view of the fact that no particular action or decision is needed from the Council.

As you will have seen also, the document is very selective in its coverage. We do this in order to facilitate Council debates and avoid overlap in them, by not covering issues which you have addressed, or will address, under separate agenda items. You will already have noted this from your discussions of environment and sustainable development, and also on international cooperation in fisheries, both topics with significant UN system ramifications upon which you have already touched.

At your request, Mr Chairman, I should now like to provide you with some updates on developments which have taken place since the document went to press. Incidentally, although the date on the document is October 1992 because that was when it was ready for distribution in all languages, I would like to point out that it actually went for processing in the month of August. Therefore the information contained in it is updated only until August.

The first item in the document is Restructuring and Revitalization of the United Nations in the Economic, Social and Related Fields. As was reported, the ECOSOC had decided in July to establish an open-ended Ad hoc Working Group on the Role of the UN in Enhancing International Cooperation for Development. This Working Group did meet and conclude its work on 5 October by adopting a Compendium of the position papers submitted to it by delegations or groups of delegations. The General Assembly has now in its turn formed an open-ended Working Group to facilitate negotiations for a draft resolution. That is about all I can say on the matter at this point.

Similarly, on Operational Activities for Development, the General Assembly has had its initial debate on this subject during the last week of October 1992. Informal consultation is now in progress. The discussion on this item followed the earlier debate on which we have reported in ECOSOC. It was based on the Triennial Policy Review prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations.

During its debate, the General Assembly was informed of the views of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) which groups all the Executive Heads of the United Nations system. At its October 1992 session, the ACC expressed its deep concern at some recent indications of reductions in levels of official development assistance and the significant consequences thereof for voluntary contributions to the operational activities of the UN system. The ACC also noted with deep concern the decline in UNDP approvals and the risk of reduced involvement of UN Specialized Agencies. These developments were having immediate grave consequences for the agencies and could result in an erosion of their capacity, thus impairing their ability to assist developing countries through technical cooperation programmes.

The ACC stressed the urgent need to expedite approval of UNDP projects consistent with resource availability, and to accelerate the effective implementation of successor arrangements for agency support costs. It also invited the relevant intergovernmental bodies to review these matters in 1993 so that appropriate action could be taken in a timely manner.

We have reported in the document on the System-wide Plan of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development. This plan was considered by the UN's Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its session in September 1992. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should launch at the earliest possible time this System-wide Plan of Action as well as the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, with the

objective of raising global awareness of the critical socio-economic and environmental situation in Africa. The Committee further recommended that the priorities of the System-wide Plan be used as guidelines for the organs, organizations and bodies of the UN system related to development in Africa. The Committee emphasized the role of the ACC in the follow-up and coordinated implementation of the Plan.

Continuing with Trade and Commodities Issues, as a follow-up to UNCTAD VIII, the new bodies of UNCTAD are now engaged in setting out their plans of work on the basis of their terms of reference decided earlier this year by the Trade and Development Board. At the first meeting held for this purpose last month, the new Standing Committee on Commodities also considered the need for a World Conference on Commodities which, as you know, had been called for at UNCTAD VIII. This question will be pursued further through informal consultation.

Paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13 of the document refer to the Uruguay Round of negotiations. The latest developments are as follows: the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) met in special session in Geneva two days ago, on 10 November. Its Chairman at the official level, Mr Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of GATT, noted that the meetings and negotiations, which had been organized since the TNC had agreed on a work programme in January toward the conclusion of the Round, have not yet yielded any concrete results; that the Uruguay Round is faced with a crisis; and that the negotiating machinery which it set up remained blocked.

Mr Dunkel proposed that the Committee express its dissatisfaction with this state of affairs; that it request its Chairman at the official level personally to bring these concerns to the notice of the authorities in charge of the Uruguay Round in Brussels and Washington, and to urge their cooperation in restarting multilateral negotiations in Geneva; and, finally, that it ask its Chairman to propose a concrete work programme as soon as developments indicate a genuine readiness by all governments to engage in substantive negotiations in Geneva on the basis of transparency and mutual trust. The TNC endorsed the proposals put forward by Mr Dunkel.

Mr Dunkel also reminded the Committee that, even after the essential political breakthroughs have taken place, there will be a great deal of detailed work to be done before the Round can be successfully concluded. For example, he noted that negotiations pertaining to market access and initial commitments in services will be technically time consuming, even with the best political will on the part of all participants.

With regard to the Common Fund for Commodities, it has now undertaken a preliminary review of project profiles for the commodities, which were submitted by the FAO inter-governmental bodies in their capacity as International Commodity Bodies, or ICBs. For a number of these commodities there are good chances for the conclusion of project agreements in the month ahead, while for other commodities we have been disappointed by the response to the proposals.

I shall go on to say a few words of update on the information in the document related to specific emergency situations. With regard to the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, an advance of US\$1.6 million has been received by FAO from the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs under its Central Emergency Revolving Fund, for the provision of agricultural inputs to



Somalia. Following the SEPHA appeal, the Trust Fund contribution to FAO has increased from the US\$8.1 million reported in the document to US\$17.2 million. In addition to the areas indicated in the document, FAO interventions also cover the provision of fertilizer and the implementation of small-scale irrigation schemes in drought-affected areas. There has been some donor interest but so far no firm pledges for relief measures aimed at the rehabilitation of animal draught power and the provision of hand tools.

Going on to update the section on the Drought Emergency in Southern Africa (DESA), I would add that between late June and mid-September 1992, FAO has fielded three missions to the Southern African Development Community (SADCC) countries to assess drought-induced emergency relief needs for the agriculture and livestock sectors. Requirements have been estimated at US\$55 million. Within the limits of available resources FAO has provided assistance to seven SADCC countries through eight projects valued at US\$2.6 million. This assistance has been primarily aimed at securing seed supplies.

The Deputy Director-General has already called to the Council's attention, in his introduction to Item 4, the limited donor support for seeds, hand tools and other inputs, which are essential to enhance or get started again agricultural production in the affected countries. Our experience with the appeal and implementation process in recent months, in collaboration with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, leads to the conclusion that FAO must stand ready to help the affected countries document their agricultural rehabilitation needs more carefully and comprehensively, and also help obtain the funds for the purchase and distribution of the inputs.

I have a note of correction concerning the information in the document on the proposed World Conference on Human Rights. In the General Assembly Resolution, it was stated that the Conference would be held in Berlin in 1993. It is still planned for 1993, but we have been told informally by the delegate of Germany to FAO that Berlin will not be the venue.

Going on to the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) which, as you know, will be taking place here at FAO Headquarters from 5 to 11 December of this year, preparations are well in hand under the able management of the FAO/WHO Joint Secretariat which is based here in FAO. Invitations to the conference were sent to governments on 31 July, and after that to other participants. Following the decision taken at PrepCom. 1, last August, there will be a one-day PrepCom. 2 immediately prior to the Conference, that is, on 4 December. Invitations to this meeting were sent to governments on 16 October. The drafts of the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition, as revised by PrepCom. 1, were also sent out on 15 September to governments, together with the provisional report of the PrepCom for their comments and suggestions, with a view to facilitating consensus on substantive matters.

Regarding the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the General Rules of FAO will apply mutatis mutandis to the ICN. The PrepCom. 2 will appoint a Nominations Committee comprising 9 members. In this connection, regional groups should endeavour to make known their candidates to the Nominations Committee during pre-conference consultations.

Other details concerning the Provisional Programme and the organization of the work of the ICN are contained in document ICN/92/3.

Finally, I come to the question of the World Food Council. You have requested, in particular, an updating of the information contained in the document on this matter.

The ad hoc Committee established by the World Food Council to make specific proposals to the General Assembly regarding the World Food Council's mandate, functions and options for its future role met in New York in September, and its report is just out. This is one of the matters I mentioned earlier on which no decision has yet been taken and which is now under consideration at the General Assembly. However, this is not the first time that the World Food Council's role functions have been reviewed. There have been several previous occasions and on none of these occasions have FAO's views been formally requested by governments in the fora concerned.

The meeting of the ad hoc Committee in New York on 14 and 15 September was a closed one, and the FAO Representative was not allowed to be present, although he had been invited by the Secretary-General as part of the UN delegation. The Report to the General Assembly was issued in New York only a few days ago and has not been transmitted officially to the Organization. In fact, we have received a copy by fax but only in one language. I will not comment on it. I could inform the Council that the ad hoc Committee has made no clear-cut recommendation. It has presented the options advanced during the discussion on the future of the Council, and it has annexed comments on the report by various countries.

Before I conclude, I should like to correct the record on one matter at the request of the World Food Council Secretariat, that is, that at the last session in Nairobi the Council held four plenary meetings and not two, as is reported in the document.

Mr Chairman, I should like to conclude here, but of course I shall remain available for any clarifications the Council may wish.

**Christodoulos CHRISTODOULOU (Cyprus):** On behalf of my delegation I wish to welcome the valuable information on the recent developments in the UN system, which is well described in document CL 102/12. Our brief intervention is entirely supportive to what is presented in this document in the form of resolutions, declarations, statements or planned activities. The following comments are limited to some of the issues under review.

We fully agree with the salient points from the statement of FAO Director-General, which was delivered at the ECOSOC session last summer and concern the eradication of poverty, paragraph 1.11. Stressing the need for substantial improvements in the International Trade System, namely as regards fair prices for agricultural commodities and fair terms of trade, we share the view that such a step will create a sound base for eradicating poverty.

Referring to the Humanitarian and Emergency Assistance, page 6, we express our deep appreciation for the cooperation of FAO with the UN Department for Humanitarian Assistance and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. We are pleased to note that FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System as well as the Technical Cooperation Programme have been useful in this case too. Thanks to the promptness and efficacy of TCP, FAO was in the position to provide assistance, in various forms, to countries facing emergencies, like Lesotho, Mozambique, Cambodia and the Philippines.

The brilliant idea to put people at the centre of development, in the World Summit for Social Development, scheduled for 1995, is really of historic importance. We believe that FAO, being directly involved in development activities since its establishment, should be actively involved in the preparations for this World Summit.

Finally, a few words on the forthcoming International Conference on Nutrition. Cyprus attaches great importance to this Conference and will participate with a five-member delegation headed by the Minister of Health. It has participated in the preparatory committee meeting in Cairo, and has delivered the relevant country paper in time.

We expect that the conclusions of this Conference will give an impetus for increased public awareness of the scope and extent of nutritional problems and define strategies and action programmes for resolving these problems.

Cyprus, participating in the global effort to improve public awareness on the need for a balanced diet is organizing a National Seminar on "Food, Nutrition and Health".

The Seminar is organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources with the help of FAO to whom I would like to express our sincere thanks. Participants to the Seminar will be representatives from the public as well as the private sector. Speakers will also come from both the public and private sectors. It is expected that the conclusions of this Seminar will be a valuable input for the preparation of my country's delegation to the forthcoming International Conference on Nutrition.

Finally, arrangements have been made in Cyprus so that all correspondence, internal and external, will be stamped during the period of the Conference, i.e., from 5-11 December, with a special stamp informing the public about the organization of the Conference. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** Mr Chairman, I cannot promise to be brief since this is an important item but I can promise to be to the point and to exercise some self-discipline as you have asked.

As is rightly pointed out in the introduction, this paper is primarily for the information of Member Nations and to keep the Council abreast of developments within the United Nations system which have implications for, and particular relevance to, the work of FAO. It is important that we - the Governing Body of this Organization - take full account of developments elsewhere in the system and the implications these can have for our own Organization.

Again, the paper rightly mentions current efforts to restructure and revitalize the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and this was mentioned by Ms Killingsworth in her introduction. The Secretary-General himself has taken the lead in pursuing these objectives and in opening a window of opportunity which should enable the entire UN system to become more effective and equipped to face future challenges. This entails a radical re-think of the UN's contribution to development, particularly at the field level where it counts most. The Director-General has been involved in recent deliberations on how the system can best coordinate and utilize its vast expertise in the follow-up to UNCED. The General Assembly is also considering - as we speak - a wide range of proposals to improve the operational

activities of the UN in development. These proposals are designed to streamline and to decentralize - not to centralize.

In the view of my delegation this report underplays the desire of Member Nations for reform, particularly in governance and in the performance of United Nations bodies in the field. Mr Chairman, the importance of reports of this nature should not be underestimated, but if they are to be taken seriously, these reports must be objective. The report of the ECOSOC Coordination Segment fails to mention that reports of the Agencies were not well received and that ECOSOC required further reporting of a more substantial nature. My delegation would be interested to know what steps FAO is taking to ensure a better performance at the 1993 ECOSOC given the increasing move towards genuine dialogue.

This is an important time of change. We, in Rome, must move with these changes and ensure that FAO does what it was mandated to do and provides an efficient and cost-effective service that has the full confidence of its membership, that is, of donors and recipients alike. This is even more important in the current uncertain economic climate which faces so many of us. We, the Governing Body of this Organization, must ensure that the important reform activities now taking place in New York are implemented in respect of FAO, our Organization.

Here, Mr Chairman, I have to diverge from the views expressed by the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago in the final part of his statement on the previous item of our agenda. We fully accept that a review has taken place of FAO's goals and operations - but, Mr Chairman, given the enormous changes taking place, we cannot simply leave it there. The challenge is clear. It is up to us whether we rise to that challenge and grasp the nettle of change.

While on the subject of change, we would like to commend to this Council the recent document prepared by Urquart and Childers which considered top UN posts. We consider that this document and the ideas that it contains are a useful signpost for the way forward. We consider that the UN system as a whole would benefit from periodic changes at the highest levels.

Regarding paragraphs 1.21 to 1.43 on Humanitarian and Emergency Assistance, we warmly welcome General Assembly Resolution 46/182 strengthening United Nations coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance. The elements outlined in paragraphs 1.23 and 1.24 should encourage appropriate and timely response to increasing disaster needs and provide an effective framework for improved international donor cooperation.

We are particularly pleased to note the linkage of emergency assistance measures with longer-term development, and planned early involvement in emergencies of UN development assistance organizations. Mr Chairman, it is vital to minimize the risk of recurring emergencies. We fully recognize the importance of FAO's contributions in Africa over the past year via the Global Information and Early Warning System reports, and participation in UN food assessment missions. We welcome the activity in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee - the success of which is vital if improved coordination is to be achieved. Just as vital is proper coordination by country representatives and staff.

Mr Chairman, these are exceptional times in humanitarian relief terms requiring exceptional efforts if the UN, and its individual agencies, are to play the roles which the world, and particularly the victims of emergencies and disasters, require of them.

We note paragraphs 1.44 to 1.53 of the report regarding Operational Activities and the comments regarding support costs. We will address this issue at a later point on the Agenda. The various other issues raised under this section will be fully debated at UNGA 47th in the discussion on the triennial policy review. It would therefore seem to us redundant, Mr Chairman, to discuss them in any detail at this Council.

Paragraphs 1.64 and 1.73 of the report discuss the World Summit for Social Development. A final decision authorizing the Summit is likely to be taken shortly at UNGA, and the likely date will not be until late 1994 or 1995; we therefore consider that it is not yet necessary for substantive work until it is authorized by UNGA. We fully recognize that FAO will have a major role to play in the proposed Summit, but that role must be matched to the agreed objectives and agenda of the Summit. This Mr Chairman is not yet known.

If I may now turn to Section 2 of the document, Mr Chairman, I will be selective in my comments.

We retain our long held doubts relating to the World Food Council. An ad hoc report by the Council on its own future mandate is unlikely to be an objective basis for change. We therefore hope that the General Assembly will conduct a rigorous scrutiny of the need for this Council.

Mr Chairman, the Section relating to Trade and Commodity issues refers to the Common Fund. The resources of the Common Fund are limited and this needs to be borne in mind when considering the size and number of projects to be submitted.

We welcome FAO's contribution to UN activities in the field of drug abuse control and therefore we welcome FAO's involvement in recent UNDCP consultations in Islamabad and Beirut to discuss drug control assistance. We were extremely interested by the description of research into Remote Sensing by the Research Technology Development Division. We look forward to seeing the results of this research. If it is successful this could be an extremely useful tool in evaluating the success of crop eradication and crop substitution.

On the Human Rights Section, Mr Chairman, our understanding is actually that the World Conference on Human Rights will now be held in Vienna and not Berlin as has been mentioned by Ms Killingsworth in her introduction.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we look forward to attending the International Conference on Nutrition next month. We consider that the ICN Declaration and Plan of Action finally emanating from this Conference must be as realistic and as achievable as possible. Anything else would be a total waste of time. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué du Royaume-Uni de son intervention très précise et concrète. Il a fait allusion à un plan, je pense qu'il aura l'occasion, plus tard, de préciser de quel plan il s'agit.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEÛR (Maroc):** Merci Monsieur le Président. L'examen de ce document appelle quelques remarques et observations de la part des pays au nom desquels je prends la parole, à savoir l'Algérie, la Libye, la Tunisie et mon propre pays. S'agissant de la question relative à la promotion de la femme et bien qu'en introduisant ce document, le Secrétariat ait remarqué que ce sujet était très vaste et que l'on ne pouvait pas s'intéresser à toutes les questions, surtout celles qui font déjà l'objet d'autres points de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais quand même relever qu'à propos des résolutions pertinentes de l'Assemblée générale, on a passé sous silence un événement assez important, à savoir le Sommet qui s'est déroulé à Genève au début de cette année pour la promotion de la femme rurale, sommet auquel ont participé beaucoup de premières dames. Je pense qu'il aurait peut-être fallu en dire quelques mots au sujet de la promotion de la femme, en parlant des résolutions pertinentes de l'Assemblée générale et de ce Sommet qui, je l'espère, sera suivi de nombreuses décisions concrètes.

Toujours sur le même sujet et au nom des pays pour lesquels je prends la parole à propos du paragraphe d), lorsqu'on parle de la Résolution 46/100 (Amélioration de la situation des femmes au Secrétariat), par laquelle le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies est prié d'accroître le nombre des femmes au Secrétariat des Nations Unies, j'aimerais avoir la précision suivante de la part du Secrétariat: le champ de cette résolution se limite-t-il à New York ou concerne-t-il tout le système des Nations Unies? Nous avons entendu parler d'un objectif de 35 pour cent en 1995, lequel objectif pourrait être reporté à 1997. Nous aimerions bien avoir quelques éclaircissements sur cette question.

S'agissant des préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, je pense que le document est assez clair. Nos pays ont pris une part active aux travaux des comités préparatoires et des réunions régionales. J'aimerais simplement faire une observation à ce sujet, à savoir que, lors de la dernière réunion d'information qui s'est tenue au Siège de la FAO, le Secrétariat nous a parlé des préparatifs de cette importante conférence mais, à cette époque, il a passé sous silence une certaine information. Certains pays ont été informés par la suite, du vœu du Secrétariat d'appeler une éminente personnalité à la présidence de cette importante réunion. Je crois que cette information aurait peut-être dû être portée à l'attention des pays membres au cours de cette réunion d'information.

S'agissant maintenant du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, un processus est actuellement en cours, et nous sommes tous prêts à reconnaître que la décision n'appartient pas au Conseil et qu'elle doit être prise à New York. Mais beaucoup de choses ont été dites à ce sujet et j'aimerais d'abord remercier Mme Killingsworth d'avoir apporté ce complément d'informations sur la réunion du Groupe ad hoc. Il y a quand même certains développements dont nous avons eu connaissance et qui, à notre sens, auront ou auraient - tout dépend de la décision qui sera prise mardi prochain à l'Assemblée générale - des répercussions que nous considérons positives pour l'Organisation. Ces éléments d'appréciation qui figurent dans le Rapport du Groupe ad hoc font actuellement l'objet de discussions, entre délégations, à New York. Il y a quand même des faits dont on aimerait que l'on prenne note. Par exemple, dans les propositions qui seraient faites pour revitaliser ce Conseil qui, malheureusement, pendant toutes ces dernières années, n'a pas donné tous les résultats que l'on attendait de lui, il y aurait l'idée que les ministres de l'agriculture se réuniraient en session, en marge de la Conférence de la FAO, tous les deux ans, et non plus annuellement un peu partout à travers le monde.

Je crois que c'est une chose qui peut être considérée comme importante pour nous: que les ministres de l'agriculture puissent se réunir en marge de la Conférence générale de la FAO pour parler de cette importante question de la sécurité alimentaire.

Le deuxième fait important dont nous aimerions qu'il soit également pris note, c'est que l'on parle actuellement de renforcer le mandat du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire de la FAO. Je crois qu'il s'agit là d'un élément fondamental pour notre Organisation. Ce sont donc là principalement les deux éléments qui, si on leur donnait suite au cours des discussions qui auront lieu, l'année prochaine, à New York, pourraient avoir des répercussions positives sur notre Organisation à l'avenir.

Voilà les quelques observations que je voulais faire. En ce qui concerne la question précise de la promotion de la femme rurale, nous aimerions obtenir une réponse.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement le délégué du Maroc de son intervention précise et concrète. Je me permettrai de lui faire remarquer que le but de la Conférence de la FAO est de rassembler le maximum de Ministres responsables au sein de l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, donc pas du tout en marge de la Conférence mais en son sein. La fonction essentielle des ministres de l'agriculture est de donner à l'Organisation les grandes orientations dans le cadre de la Conférence et non pas en marge de celle-ci. Leur présence est indispensable à la Conférence elle-même.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Je voudrais faire un certain nombre de remarques sur le document qui nous a été soumis. Comme le sujet de la réforme des institutions des Nations Unies a également été évoqué par le Directeur général, il me semble que nous dépassons obligatoirement la simple réception d'une information pour engager une sorte de débat. A cet égard, je dois dire que je partage les remarques faites par mon collègue du Royaume-Uni, à savoir que le rapport qui nous est soumis reste trop général et trop factuel en ce qui concerne la question de la réforme des institutions des Nations Unies. Il nous semble que, compte tenu du débat à l'Assemblée générale, ce rapport méritait d'être plus ambitieux et d'ouvrir de plus grandes perspectives.

Comme le rappelait, par exemple, l'aide-mémoire du 18 septembre 1992 déposé par mon pays, "le monde est aujourd'hui confronté à de nombreux défis qui traduisent une aspiration générale à un développement économique centré sur l'homme. Ces défis s'adressent avant tout aux Nations Unies dans leur ensemble qui ont largement assuré la promotion de cette conception du développement. Mais dans un contexte financier difficile, les Nations Unies ne peuvent satisfaire cette attente sans améliorer l'efficacité de leur intervention par une réforme des activités économiques et sociales".

Nous estimons que cette réforme, amorcée notamment par les Résolutions 44/211 et 45/264 de l'Assemblée générale, doit être à la fois ambitieuse dans son objectif et progressive dans son application, comme le soulignent les orientations définies par la communauté internationale et auxquelles la France s'associe pleinement. Nous croyons qu'elle pourrait s'appliquer en priorité aux activités opérationnelles des Nations Unies en se consacrant tout d'abord aux fonds et programmes.

Avant tout, il faut que le Conseil économique et social soit mis en mesure de mieux remplir sa mission de coordination de l'ensemble du système, ce qui suppose à la fois, d'une part, un renforcement de la coordination dans les enceintes appropriées (débat de haut niveau, CAC, etc.) avec les institutions financières multilatérales et, d'autre part, une certaine centralisation - je me réfère aux propos du Directeur général - par le Conseil économique et social en ce qui concerne la programmation des institutions spécialisées de la famille des Nations Unies. L'idéal serait d'aboutir à l'adoption d'un programme unique par pays, l'ECOSOC jouant ainsi le rôle d'un "Conseil international du développement".

Mais, bien entendu, cet objectif suppose une analyse détaillée des implications pour les agences et devrait prendre en compte les avantages attachés à la préservation d'un degré d'autonomie suffisant des institutions spécialisées comme la FAO.

En attendant, soyons pragmatiques et commençons par réformer et coordonner les activités opérationnelles de développement des simples organes subsidiaires de l'Assemblée générale ou de l'ECOSOC, c'est-à-dire celles des fonds et programmes. Dans une première étape, cela viserait le PNUD, le FNUAP, le PNUF, le PAM et l'UNICEF. Il s'agirait de définir un programme unique par pays pour ces fonds et programmes, sous la responsabilité d'un coordinateur résident des Nations Unies, placé lui-même sous l'autorité du Secrétaire général.

La restructuration de l'ECOSOC et du Secrétariat leur permettrait de mieux suivre et orienter cette programmation unique par pays. Ce serait en effet au Conseil économique et social qu'il reviendrait, aux termes mêmes de la charte, d'assurer la cohérence centrale des activités de développement. Or, le Conseil économique et social, réformé par la Résolution 45/264, dispose d'ores et déjà des structures internes et des compétences lui permettant de remplir les fonctions d'orientation et de coordination en faisant un "Conseil international du développement" qui devrait définir les axes du développement économique et social de la coordination qui en découle.

Quant aux agences spécialisées, comme celle où se réunit aujourd'hui votre Conseil, il ne faut pas ruiner les avantages attachés à la préservation d'un degré d'autonomie suffisant. Chacune des agences spécialisées a un rôle spécifique qu'il convient de respecter, ce qui veut dire que nous leur reconnaissons une capacité autonome et propre à engager les réformes internes nécessaires en vue d'un fonctionnement coordonné et cohérent du système des Nations Unies. Or ce sont des propositions et des études allant dans ce sens que nous attendons dorénavant et qui donnerait au rapport sur les faits nouveaux dans le système des Nations Unies un contenu plus opérationnel que la seule description qui nous est soumise aujourd'hui. Voilà ce que la France demande au Secrétariat de faire.

Je voudrais aborder maintenant deux autres points qui ont été mentionnés. En ce qui concerne le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, une discussion a en effet eu lieu à New York, il y a deux jours. Pour notre part, du côté français, nous soutenons le maintien de l'existence du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, estimant qu'il peut être un forum utile de discussions libres entre ministres et personnalités de haut niveau, à condition que l'ordre du jour porte sur deux jours seulement et que les réunions du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation aient lieu les années où ne se réunit pas la Conférence de manière à assurer la permanence du dialogue.



Enfin, en ce qui concerne la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, nous estimons qu'il s'agit là d'une excellente idée et nous tenons à féliciter le Secrétariat conjoint du remarquable travail de préparation qui a été fait. Nous nous réservons de faire des propositions plus opérationnelles que celles suggérées dans les lignes d'action, qui restent très générales.

En même temps, je voulais dire à notre collègue marocain qu'en effet, Mme Weil, qui fera partie de la délégation française, a reçu au mois de juillet une lettre lui demandant si elle était disposée à tenir la présidence de cette conférence. Bien entendu, Mme Weil n'y viendrait que s'il y avait consensus à ce sujet. Mais je ne doute pas qu'il puisse être obtenu.

Enfin, je voulais préciser que la délégation française sera dirigée par M. Bernard Kouchner, Ministre de la Santé et de l'Action humanitaire, qui est particulièrement qualifié pour participer aux débats sur cette question.

Voilà ce que je voulais dire en insistant une nouvelle fois, comme je le pense d'autres délégations le feront, pour que l'adaptation de la FAO, par ses propres moyens, au défi de la réorganisation des Nations Unies soit engagée le plus vite possible.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie vivement l'Ambassadeur de France de son importante déclaration. Nous aurons l'occasion de faire part de nos sentiments à ce sujet. Il a soulevé différents points très importants.

**Elias REYES BRAVO (México):** Mi delegación desea expresar, Sr. Presidente, el reconocimiento a la Secretaría de la FAO por el informe que nos presenta en el documento CL 102/12, el cual permite a los Estados Miembros conocer aquellas novedades que han ocurrido en el Sistema de Naciones Unidas y que tienen repercusión en la labor de esta Organización y que son de especial interés para la misma.

Los temas que aborda el documento ponen de manifiesto el ámbito de acción mundial de las Naciones Unidas, lo cual nos lleva a reiterar la necesidad de una eficaz coordinación entre órganos y organismos y de una acción armónica interagencial que permita una aplicación más eficiente de los recursos disponibles.

En general, consideramos de interés indiscutible los temas de que se informa en las dos secciones del documento. En particular, mi delegación desea destacar lo relativo al punto sobre: Actividades operacionales para el desarrollo, por considerar que si bien este punto es interesante en lo que toca a la acción interagencial, lo es también en lo que toca a la participación y a la relación entre los Estados en particular con los organismos internacionales, en este caso con la FAO.

Consideramos, entonces, que los Estados en particular debemos realizar esfuerzos porque la relación y la cooperación con organizaciones como ésta que ahora nos convoca, sean cada vez más fructíferas conjugando las principales vertientes de acción de la FAO, es decir: el desarrollo y aprovechamiento de los sistemas de información; la formulación de proyectos de cooperación técnica y la realización de reuniones de trabajo en los foros como este Consejo.

Vincular nuestros discursos a las acciones específicas allá en el campo constituye una condición para alcanzar soluciones a nuestros problemas.

**Bo WILEN (Sweden):** I have the honour of making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The document presented on this Agenda Item, CL 102/12, as well as Ms Killingsworth's updated information today, give an interesting review of what is going on in the rest of the UN system. We have found several of the items reported on interesting, but will concentrate our intervention here on the ongoing reforms of operational activities for development. The discussions regarding this issue taking place in the ECOSOC and in the General Assembly are, in our mind, highly relevant to FAO.

The Nordic countries believe that multilateral cooperation offers important comparative advantages in the form of good potential for a multisectoral approach to development, in a transparent system without inappropriate political strings and commercial interests. Nevertheless, various studies commissioned by the Nordic UN project indicate that there is considerable room for improvement of the UN operational activities. Multilateral assistance through the UN system has to a large extent suffered from fragmentation, lack of focus and inability to make optimal use of its advantages.

We therefore believe that reform of the intergovernmental and organizational structures of the UN system is a precondition for a stronger UN in the fields of operational activities. The UN system will only be as strong as the member countries enable it to be, by the establishment of governing bodies that give clear policy guidance and ensure sound management accountability as well as provision of adequate and predictable financial means. As you are aware, the Nordic countries, through the Nordic UN project, have already presented proposals regarding the issues of governance and financing.

The Nordic countries recognize Resolution 44/211 as a good basis for reform of UN development assistance at the field level. In the three years' period since the last policy review, some steps have been taken by several UN organizations, their governing bodies and various coordination committees regarding national execution, programme approach and system-wide issues such as the successor arrangement to support cost. But much remains to be done. Growing development needs and increasing restraints on resources do not allow for further delays and should inspire us to be more specific in our efforts to make the UN system work better. FAO is an important part of this system, and any reform of the general system will also be important for this Organization.

The reforms needed at the field level pertain both to issues of substance and organization. Changes in the demands of the developing countries and the global economic and political context call for changes in the assistance provided. New emphasis on the interdependence of development issues requires more coherent and stronger multisectoral response by the UN development system. Resources are scarce and therefore need to be managed in the most cost effective manner. Moreover, there is a clear relationship between the efficiency of the system and the resource availability.

The Nordic countries support strongly the efforts made to enhance the cooperation among the UN organizations at the field level by the development

of a single UN country strategy. We see this as a good mechanism for mobilizing UN support in a more coherent manner and for strengthening the UN team work at the field level under the leadership of the resident coordinator. We support an enhanced role for the resident coordinator, on the understanding that the ultimate responsibility for coordination of external assistance lies with the national government. Accordingly the formulation of a UN country strategy is contingent upon the existence of a national development framework.

Connected to the UN country strategy are other programming mechanisms like the programme approach and national execution. Replacing a project approach by a programme approach contributes to greater relevance, flexibility, cost-effectiveness and impact in relation to national programmes and priorities. We believe that more extensive use of national execution increases the national responsibility for development activities and strengthens the governments' capacity to coordinate external assistance. To facilitate the implementation of these mechanisms, there is a need for clear and consistent instructions and system-wide guidelines.

During the debate on the operational activities in the General Assembly it was stated by a majority of the delegations that the tools for more efficient operations and programmes in the field, such as the programme approach and national execution, need to be defined in a system-wide manner. The Nordic countries are satisfied that FAO is moving towards programme approach in its field programme, but we feel it is of utmost importance that this be done in close cooperation with other organizations and agencies when the common concepts are clarified.

We are pleased to observe that reforms are under way not only in the Economic and Social Council itself but also in the programmes related to it. Any reform of UN organizations or agencies must, however, take into account the general framework of changes that the Secretary-General of the UN has announced in his opening statement of UNCED follow-up discussion in the General Assembly just a week ago. With a streamlined UN Headquarters as the first step, clearer lines of responsibility and simpler structure outlined by the Secretary-General imply significant changes in the field structure, decentralization of authority and capacity, as well as unified presence. These changes will affect the operational activities and necessarily create the need for changes in the operation of specialized agencies like FAO. The Nordic countries would like to hear from the Secretariat what implications such changes would have for FAO.

We trust the FAO is willing and interested in adjusting its role within the UN system's developments efforts in order to be able to respond to new demands and challenges the multilateral assistance is facing. This requires a new approach and innovative attitude as well as a spirit of teamwork. The criticism towards the central funding concept that constituted FAO's statement during the operational activities debate in the General Assembly does not reflect the kind of constructive approach that is now called for from all development assistance partners. Whatever the future structures of the operational arm of the UN are, the increased need for substantial transfer of skills and capacity-building remain. The Nordic countries remain assured that FAO will contribute towards attaining a cost-effective and efficient UN in its development task.

In conclusion, the Nordic delegations are satisfied that FAO is moving towards a programme approach in its field programme. We also trust that FAO is

interested in adjusting its role within the UN system's developments efforts in order to be able to respond to the new demands and challenges that multilateral assistance is facing. Increased emphasis on substantial transfer of skills and capacity-building will be needed in the future.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement le Royaume de Suède de son intervention. Il est clair que l'articulation dans des secteurs déterminés comme celui de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture doit se faire autour des organismes responsables. Si l'on veut une coordination il faut déterminer de manière très claire les responsabilités de chacun. Or, les responsabilités de la FAO semblent très nettement définies de par son Acte constitutif et il est donc souhaitable que cette articulation se fasse compte tenu de ses responsabilités propres.

Je crois également que l'approche par programme doit être recherchée, mais que pour élaborer de bons programmes il faut déjà avoir l'expérience d'un certain nombre de projets. L'élaboration d'un programme doit être basée précisément sur un certain nombre d'expériences précises, concrètes et opérationnelles.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I join with those who have preceded me in thanking those involved in the preparation of this document and also Ms Killingsworth for her informative introduction. A perusal of the document indicates the extent of the diversity of the work of the UN, particularly when it is considered that what is covered here is only a small part, that which is of interest, or relates in some way, to FAO. I should like to touch briefly on a few aspects of the report which are of particular interest to Australia.

Firstly, on the question of restructuring and revitalization of the UN economic, social and related fields, Australia favours review of the UN system and, if necessary, the implementation of reforms which will improve that system. Widespread institutional reform in the United Nations system is an essential prerequisite for winning the additional resources needed for the fight against hunger and malnutrition. We need to be able to demonstrate that existing resources are being used efficiently and effectively.

This is a position we advocated in Nairobi. Australia took an active part in the discussions on the future of the World Food Council in Nairobi in June of this year. We also made a written submission to the ad hoc Committee established at that session to review and report on this matter and provided comments on that report, which has now gone forward for consideration in New York.

Australia strongly supports the extent of FAO's participation in the UN system-wide activities for the advancement of women and its collaboration with other agencies in Women in Development initiatives.

My Government congratulates the FAO for its contribution toward the International Conference on Nutrition and lends its support to achieving a unanimous adoption of a declaration on food and nutrition and a plan of action at the ICN in Rome in December of this year. The discussions during the PrepCom, in which Australia actively participated, will go far in assuring a successful conclusion at the ICN. The background document to the ICN, "Nutrition and Development: A Global Assessment", provides an excellent framework for the declaration and plan of action. The level of global

malnutrition is declining. However, it is still of significant proportions and requires concerted action if it is to be eliminated. The declaration and plan of action, in seeking the integration of nutrition, health and agriculture policies, will, for the first time, allow such an approach to be implemented, but, if significant gains are to be made, the nutrition sector must co-opt all workers in the food system as allies to an agreed plan of action.

In September 1992 an Australian National Food and Nutrition Policy was released and funds of more than 4 million dollars allocated to food and nutrition initiatives over the next few years. Under this programme, priority action has been identified in the areas of nutrition, nutrition information, education, monitoring and surveillance, specific programmes for disadvantaged groups and food supply changes consistent with dietary guidelines. The National Health and Medical Research Council which provides scientific advice to the Australian Government will be supporting these initiatives through the revision and development of references and scientific tools for the policy, implementation and evaluation.

Australia will be represented at the ICN and will again actively participate in the development of an agreed declaration on nutrition and plan of action.

As you are well aware, this report also covers developments in the Uruguay Round until October. I will refrain from commenting further on this extremely important issue, the outcome of which has significant implications for a large proportion of the membership of FAO and in particular for developing country members.

As a leading member of the Cairns Group of countries, Australia's views on the Uruguay Round are well known and well documented. They are covered in the Australian intervention on Agenda Item 4 by the leader of the Australian Delegation, Dr Geoffrey Miller.

Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy): As the Representative of the Host Country of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN system, allow me to go on record with a few considerations on the Item touched on in paragraph 2.1-2.4 of CL 102/12: that is to say, on the question of the review of the mandate of operations and future role of the World Food Council. We have taken careful note of all the proposals expressed by the Council itself in its Ministerial session in Nairobi last June and also of the report of the ad hoc Committee held in September in New York.

What we have noted is that, whilst all members of the Council fully agree on the need for reforms to the United Nations system, including the Council itself, on the other hand all Council members still agree on the validity of the objectives which are within the mandate of the Council, whilst a few member countries expect an improvement in the system, from the transfer of the Council's function to other United Nations bodies and the Council's dissolution, the majority of members wish to improve the Council's effectiveness through fundamental reforms of the Council itself.

Italy's viewpoint is that, whilst we fully recognize the need for substantial reform, we also think that the function of the World Food Council should be preserved. A Ministerial-level body can provide much-needed policy guidance and political impulse on major food security questions, not only energizing

the three agricultural organizations, but also catalyzing individual national administrations in their support.

As there is apparently the need to bridge the opposing positions on the question, we think that for the moment the Council should be retained as a separate entity and undertake immediate reforms, whilst keeping under review longer-term opportunities on alternative solutions. In time, as a reform of the UN system proceeds, it will be possible to assess better if and how the coordinating functions of the Council could be attributed to other restructured and revitalized bodies such as ECOSOC or ACC.

Therefore, we think that the World Food Council should re-assert its role, update its mandate and mainly streamline its structure. In this, we go along with the ideas expressed by the French delegation about the reforming of the Agenda, the focus of the mandate on more topical issues, and adjusting the frequency, venue and length of the meetings of the Council. We also think that they should be biennial, they should be held in alternate years to the General Conference of FAO, they should last only two days, and, finally, they should all be held in Rome, thus avoiding the cost of the transfer of the Secretariat.

As the host country, Italy is fully supportive of all the organizations, including the Council, which have a seat in Rome. We would increase its responsibilities in order to ensure that the shortcomings of the Council's activities will be overcome through the most appropriate logistic arrangements.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais souligner que le principal organisme ministériel compétent en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture est incontestablement la Conférence de la FAO.

**Deddy SUDARMAN (Indonesia):** As we know now, we have now entered into a time of unprecedented changes in world politics and economy. These changes in the international environment could also have profound implications for food security. We noted that many developing countries are still facing the problems of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Considering the major role of agriculture in the development of most developing countries, due to its large contribution to the national economy, it is imperative to keep food and agricultural issues as priority items on the international agenda of cooperation.

In this connection, support should be given to the efforts of developing countries in seeking ways and means to reduce poverty and to enhance food security and self-sufficiency by raising the productivity of agricultural producers, particularly of smallholders and women farmers. Cooperation between exporting and importing countries should also be increased through, *inter alia*, the management of bufferstocks to prevent shortages of essential food products. Greater efforts to establish ways and means for the exchange of information and experiences should be promoted, with specific reference to joint food production ventures and cooperative schemes for the production of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs.

With regard to the prevailing trends toward the restructuring, revitalization and democratization of the UN, the improvement of the Organization and methods

of work of the UN System and its Specialized Agencies and subsidiary bodies should be encouraged to make them more responsive to the changing realities, and more effective and efficient in implementing their mandates. In this context, better coordination among the UN agencies and bodies dealing with policies and programmes of food and agriculture should be pursued. In this regard, FAO's initiatives to conduct intensive consultations with other Rome-based food and agriculture agencies should be strengthened to achieve the objective of eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** Before I begin I should like to thank both Ms Killingsworth for her introduction and the Secretariat for its work on this item.

I would like to share our impressions of the dialogue on the United Nations system reform which has been actively pursued by Member Governments since the level meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council this high-summer.

This discussion and its central themes are of systemic importance. We believe that the ideas being considered in New York have compelling relevance for the FAO.

We understand that the thrust of the reform of UN operational activities is aimed at making a coherent whole of many disparate, fragmented parts, by focusing on individual country programmes as the pivotal units for action, policy coordination and decision-making. The reorganization now under way in ECOSOC is designed to give member states a larger voice in governance and to cut through bureaucratic layers which deal with the development process. Just as important, it is meant to equip the system to mobilize rapid, concerted field-level responses by appropriate agencies at the onset of major or complex emergencies. Not centralized planning but streamlining and decentralization are the goals of this reorganization.

The potential transformation of ECOSOC into a broad forum for policy formulation will have far-reaching implications for system reform. This process will be further strengthened by the establishment of a commission on sustainable development as an arm of ECOSOC.

These changes in UN governance open up opportunities for a more active, considered intervention by member states in the agenda-setting process. In this regard, the member-driven list of goals embodied in Agenda 21 should help to guide the redesigning of agendas and priorities for the UN system as a whole, and for the FAO in particular.

To translate these goals into action, members need to engage in open exchanges of views. We need to overcome futile antagonisms to look freshly and decidedly at the consequences of our programmes and our priorities. We have little time to lose.

The winds of change are sweeping the globe and the UN system. We believe that the reforms under active consideration in New York will advance the necessary improvements in organization and resource utilization, but only if ultimately accepted by the entire system. On 27 October the US Permanent Representative to the UN in his statement to the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly stated our commitment to further developing mechanisms for programme and financial review with the aim of strengthening field operations. Our Permanent

Representative also made clear our belief, shared by others, that periodic changes at the highest levels throughout the system are a valuable component of this dynamic process of change and renewal.

In a world of exhaustible and limited resources, we cannot do everything. We must learn from the best and the worst of development programmes, to determine whether our efforts can achieve real, lasting improvements. What our hardest lessons suggest is that focus is critical and the impact of national policies pervasive.

Instruments must be put in place to provide for greater membership oversight over the process of choosing and evaluating field programmes. The criteria for those programmes should be clearly aimed to develop sustainable national capacities and alternatives to dependence. With respect to the World Food Council, my delegation would like to reinforce the views expressed by the United Kingdom. We too have doubts regarding the need for this organization.

One area of overreaching interest is international participation in drug control. We note with interest FAO's narcotics-related projects in Afghanistan and Burma and welcome its involvement in recent UNDP consultations in Islamabad and Beirut to discuss drug control assistance.

We urge the FAO to take drug control objectives into account in project design and development in areas afflicted by drug transit and production. To this end, we encourage FAO Representatives to be fully informed so that counter-narcotics options can be considered in establishing country programmes.

The United States supports the actions and recommendations contained in the document under consideration and the implementation of UNGA Resolution 46/100 entitled "Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat". In particular, we call attention to the commitment by FAO to inter-agency cooperation to pool expertise and resources in this work, and its collaboration with other UN bodies in activities for the advancement of rural women.

We look forward to a time when more women are represented in the managerial and professional levels of the FAO and other UN agencies.

The time for change has come. We have seen walls of repression and tyranny come tumbling down. But many remain, and the world is far from a healthy and secure place. The explosion of long-repressed ethnic and national conflicts, the persistence of malnourishment, deforestation, the destruction of natural habitats, the extinction of plant and animal species, the increase in tragic, complex emergencies - these problems demand our most concerted responses. The UN system working as a coordinated whole can play a vital role in mobilizing the leadership and collective will to make multilateral development a powerful instrument for eradicating poverty and preserving the earth's resources.

In contrast to some views expressed, we see reform as a dynamic and essential process, not a book that closed in the last decade. The strengthening of FAO is imperative and closely linked to the system-wide effort of programmatic reform, administrative restructuring and budgetary restraint. These changes are especially important for those engaged in creating solutions to the problems of world hunger and rural neglect. To ignore the UN mandate for vigorous, rapid change would be to consign the FAO to the sidelines. We cannot entertain this possibility.



**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** Document CL 102/12 very competently details the developments in the UN system of interest to FAO for the information of Member Nations. We are hopeful that the revamped ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies will now pursue their respective mandates with greater vigour and cohesion and inter-agency coordination.

We also look with great optimism on the functioning of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs under the able leadership of Mr Jan Eliasson, Under Secretary-General, and Emergency Relief Coordination for the strengthening of coordinated humanitarian emergency assistance, particularly in regard to the continuum from relief to rehabilitation and development.

My delegation is gratified to note FAO's close interface and involvement with UN/DHA in responding to developing emergencies in Africa and elsewhere. India has considerable experience in disaster management, amply demonstrated in our handling of the drought of 1987 - one of the worst in this century.

My delegation views with great interest the proposed study on combating aridity, soil erosion, water logging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia, to be prepared by the FAO on the request of the Secretary General, sequel to ECOSOC Resolution 1991/97.

However, we continue to view with concern the slow progress in the issuance of guidelines on training and briefing by UNDP in regard to implementing the successor support costs arrangements. Delay in putting into operation the new complex system is liable to tell upon UNDP's delivery as well as FAO's performance in this regard.

I should like to put on record our appreciation of the deep involvement and support of FAO to the ICN process during the last two years, culminating in the Conference in Rome early next month. The developing countries look with great anticipation on the outcome of the Conference, particularly the Declaration and the Plan of Action which will determine the quality of the international community's response in the coming decades to the intractable problems of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

If I may add a word on the "Programme Approach", concerning Paragraph 1.49 of the document, currently in vogue in the UNDP parlance, I should like to reiterate the position that the programmes that the UN system or other international organizations participating in a country's development process need to follow should be the programme of the national government. Such programmes are often detailed in the development plans, such as the Five-Year Plans in the case of India. Any efforts to hoist plans, programmes or priorities from outside the country, be it from the United Nations or any other external organization, may go against the sound principles of planning which consider people's participation as a sine qua non of the development process. Even from the standpoint of resources earmarked for poverty alleviation and other development efforts by national governments and external organizations, the national government should be the final arbiter in the process of decision-making in its national development efforts. Any attempt to abrogate their authority to the detriment of development programmes and priorities may not only raise the question of the efficacy of such an effort but would also go against tenets of democracy.

My delegation would therefore call for a flexible and effective programme approach which provides support to the national governments to develop their national programmes, to be implemented by financial and technical support from the UN and other international organizations.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** My country's delegation welcomes FAO's efforts in reviewing the recent developments in the UN system of interest to the FAO, embodied in the document we are discussing now. My delegation cannot but express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the outstanding preparation of such a document. We should also like to thank Ms Killingsworth for the fine introduction of this document.

Having carefully studied the first section of the document relating to Restructuring and Revitalization of the United Nations in the Economic, Social and Related Fields, my delegation wishes to welcome the FAO's active involvement in the deliberations relating to this issue, in addition to its positive response to the relief operations in emergencies as described in paragraphs 1.26 to 1.30. More particularly, we appreciate FAO's efforts in the Horn of Africa through the relief operations office.

Concerning paragraphs 1.31 to 1.39 dealing with the critical situation in Africa, my delegation would like to praise FAO's efforts in assessing the food requirements of these countries, with positive results in the face of disasters.

My delegation endorses the review of the World Food Council's mandate, functions and structure. This is in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate, namely the preparation of policies contributing to the uprooting of hunger and poverty.

Furthermore, my delegation supports the contents of paragraph 2.14 and FAO's efforts in supplying the developing countries with technical advice, thus helping them for the Uruguay multilateral negotiations.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the action taken by FAO in promoting the status of women.

We should also like to welcome the IFAD effort in convening a summit meeting on the promotion of economic and social conditions of rural women. Concerning the role of Egypt in the promotion of women, we shall deal with it in the future.

As for paragraphs 2.51 to 2.54 concerning the ICN Conference, we all undoubtedly agree on the importance of convening such a conference. Therefore, we fully endorse the FAO's participation in the preparation of such a conference.

In this connection my country, Egypt, played host to the Near East Regional Meeting in the preparation of this conference. Moreover, we set up an expert technical committee entrusted with the task of preparing the working papers for the delegation of Egypt to that conference. It is our intention to take part in the deliberations of the ICN at the highest level.

In conclusion, we hope the FAO will strengthen further its cooperation with the financial institutions.

**Mohmed Said HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** I should like to commend the Secretariat for preparing document CL 102/12 on Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO. I should like to comment briefly on paragraphs 1.54 to 1.63 which deal with the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. I will refer in this context to the situation in my country.

It is abundantly clear that the Programme of Action is an expression of the renewal of the commitment of the international community and the African countries to cooperate in the field of sustainable socio-economic development of Africa in the 1990s. We in the Sudan, in spite of the desertification and drought spells we faced in the 1980s, committed ourselves to the objective promoted by FAO, namely to give development an internal character and to adopt and enhance self-reliance.

In the new programme we are implementing, we are committed to pursuing agricultural and rural development strategies and policies aimed at fully integrating the rural economies into the national economy, and at achieving food security and enhancing food self-reliance.

We are also committed, Mr Chairman, to improving our agricultural policy. We managed to increase agricultural productivity and we established an appropriate credit scheme and storage facilities.

The producing households, and women in particular, were provided with the necessary resources for food production and for participating in development. Special attention was paid to rural women, thanks to the role played by UNICEF in some provinces.

Mr Chairman, in spite of the difficult situation in Sudan throughout the 80s, which was characterized by a rural exodus, by an increase in the number of refugees, and the civil war imposed on us in the South, the efforts made by the United Nations in order to help us are clear everywhere, such as the support given to the activities directly related to the improvement of the lot of the Sudanese people.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to pay tribute to the UN system and the role it is playing in alleviating suffering and helping many countries in the world, and particularly my own, where many UN agencies, like UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, WHO and, of course, FAO are very active.

I would like also to pay tribute to OSRO which is helping us a lot.

I would like once again to commend the Secretariat for preparing this document and I look forward to more efforts by the UN system as we are now on the threshold of the 21st century. I look forward to more assistance for Africa to enable it to develop and catch up with the developed countries. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Tang ZHENGPING (China) (Original language Chinese):** Mr Chairman, I also would like to thank Ms Killingsworth for her introduction. The Chinese delegation have carefully studied document CL 102/12 and we noted some of the developments in the UN system which are of interest to FAO.

The Chinese Government at relevant fora has expressed its opinions on questions related to this agenda item. I would like only to make the following two remarks: our operational activities and ICN. Firstly, our operational activities for development; I would reiterate that the Chinese Government supports the general idea of national execution of projects. However, we think this should be done step by step and it should be done in accordance with the execution capability of the developing countries. The technical advantages of FAO should be brought into play.

At the same time, training should be provided to developing countries to enhance their ability to implement projects. Secondly, our international Conference on Nutrition; we appreciate the large amount of work done by FAO in preparation for this very important Conference. The Chinese Government is now also making full preparations so as to take an active part in the discussions on various agenda items. We sincerely hope that this Conference will bring about positive results.

Finally, I would also like to mention the meeting convened in February, in Geneva, this year that was a successful meeting participated in by wives of State leaders and rural women. That was a successful meeting and of great significance to women's participation in rural development. The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to women's participation. We will take an active part in such activities in the future. We are willing to exchange experiences with various Governments in order to strengthen cooperation in this field. Thank you for your attention.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie vivement le représentant de la Chine de son intervention empreinte de sagesse. Je crois également que l'exécution nationale est un objectif à atteindre dans une vision de solidarité supranationale. Un des aspects les plus importants du développement est le transfert des techniques. C'est un point sur lequel, très souvent, on n'insiste pas assez.

**Daudi NGELAUTWA MWAKAWAGO (Tanzania):** Mr Chairman, thanks for giving me the floor to make a few comments on the report before the Council, document CL 102/12. My congratulations to the Secretariat for the very able and competent preparation of the documents. FAO will need to reorganize itself to take into account the requirements of Agenda 21 but even more important the changes in the world scene resulting from the end of the Cold War.

Poverty is still a worldwide menace. In the African scene many countries including Tanzania are implementing structural adjustment programmes. Whereas positive results are being realized in agricultural and rural development, my delegation is concerned at the growing gap between the rich and the poor.

Consequently, my delegation believes there is need to revisit the strategies which are currently in force. There is impatience in the developing countries. It is one thing to resolve that food is a right but availability and accessibility are crucial. FAO should feel obligated to ensure food is produced and is available to all the people.

Tanzania supports the reforms of the UN system spearheaded by the Secretary-General Dr Boutros Ghali. In this aspect coordination is the key element. Reform is timely and absolutely necessary. A word of caution here. We feel

there should be a rational balance between streamlining the structures and functions of the United Nations and the direction of resources to areas of greatest need in Africa. The Cold War had its positive advantages in the area of resources. Now that the world is unipolar, the issue of mobilization of resources needs focusing in an urgent way. To the poor it is not the structure that matters but delivery.

My delegation is in agreement with positions of Brazil, Venezuela, Zambia, India, and Trinidad and Tobago on sustainable development of agriculture and the requirements of Agenda 21.

In conclusion my delegation would like to underscore the need to intensify cooperation among the developing countries in their efforts for sustainable development. In this regard we urge the FAO to expand the use of experts from the developing countries in consultancy work.

As to women's development, we would like to stress that the approach should be governed by demographic reality and compassion rather than charity. Thank you.

**Shahid RASHID (Pakistan) :** The comments of the Pakistan delegation are somewhat general in nature. The introduction to document CL 102/12 states that recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO is a standing item on the agenda of the Council and is primarily for the information of Member Nations.

The Pakistan delegation would like this item to be viewed as such and does not support going beyond what is envisaged.

During these critical times when most things are in a state of flux, recent developments in the UN system cannot be dealt with in an abrupt manner. The debate that has been initiated in New York, and being carried on in Geneva and other places, may lead to far-reaching consequences for the world community at large.

We should be particularly careful that, while revitalizing the United Nations is a worthy objective, such a process should not in any way compromise the basic principles on which the UN was founded. The sanctity of the UN Charter should be respected in letter and in spirit. The principal ally of universality should be maintained and the democratic process of decision-making should be based on the sovereign equality of members which should be maintained.

As far as FAO is concerned, we would like to stress that we have always been appreciative of the role it has played in promoting activities in pursuit of its mandate. It is a role that has made an important difference in a variety of ways relating to food and agriculture. FAO, with its broad membership of Sovereign Nations and its adherence to democratic decision-making, is an Organization so structured as to accomplish the goals set forth in a satisfactory manner.

The reservoir of expertise and wealth of knowledge accumulated over the years and special experience acquired in policy and programmes for the development of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and other related fields - particularly at the operational level - is a special resource for FAO which we hope will be preserved, protected and enhanced.

We would, therefore, like to see FAO hold its own and continue to occupy the centre stage of such activities both at the policy level and operational level. Having said that, Mr Chairman, the Pakistan delegation would like to emphasize that FAO should not be the silent recipient of prescriptions for change nor should we be presented with a fait accompli. If a reform has to take place it should be from within and with the full participation of its entire membership.

At the same time, we are of the view that this is not the appropriate time to go into any substantive details or specifics. Such matters require due consideration and deep thinking and can hardly be made subject of an impromptu debate.

Before concluding, Mr Chairman, let me thank the Secretariat for providing useful details and updates on developments taking place on the subject. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of Pakistan for his very interesting intervention. I am sure that you are right about the point which you explained.

**A. DE JONG (Netherlands):** Mr Chairman, the last few years we have been discussing the changes which are taking place in the world. And, in a changing world we are, not surprisingly, faced with a changing UN system as well.

It is not my intention today, in a Council meeting where only limited time is available, to discuss this extremely important issue in depth. But, before touching upon a few points concerning the ICN, one remark with regard to this process in the UN.

One of the main issues in the UN reform discussion is how can we ensure that the UN system starts working in a better way. This applies to the central as well as to the field level where the UN system should operate in a more efficient and unified manner. With regard to the field level, my delegation hopes that the coordination of a UN representative or Resident Coordinator with no direct links to a Programme Fund or Agency might improve the impact of the UN system in the field.

On the intergovernmental level there are important tasks for a future Sustainable Development Commission and an International Development Council. The SDC will have to coordinate, oversee and monitor the actions of the various parts of the UN system implementing Agenda 21.

An International Development Council should give policy guidance on operational activities of the UN system.

We believe that these two bodies could constitute an appropriate and efficient mechanism to ensure the implementation of Agenda Item 21 in a consolidated manner in which FAO will have its role to play and to ensure a more integrated and coherent development activity of the UN system.

In the UN system of the next century the right hand should always know what the left hand is doing. We feel that by a strong SDC and IDC the polycentric nature of the UN system can be utilized in the most efficient manner.

My next point is the ICN. I am not going to reopen the debate which took place in Geneva or pre-empt next month's discussion here in Rome, but I just mention a few points which are of concern to my country.

The Netherlands is of the opinion that serious attention should be paid to the follow-up process of the ICN. It is of importance that in the ICN Declaration goals are sufficiently specified and priorities set for further action. The question arises as to whether there would be a focal point where the implementation of the plan of action could be set in motion and/or monitored. Is any such a joint initiative or organizational structure being thought of by FAO and WHO?

I am not so much advocating another body, but in order to get a continuing process started immediately after the Conference, at least some sort of a framework, preferably within an existing unit, should be agreed upon. We must keep the process going.

I am mentioning FAO and WHO only, as the organizers and first responsible organizations within the UN family, but I want to make it clear, that the Netherlands is of the opinion that the implementation of the outcome of the ICN should take place in close cooperation and coordination with all concerned parties in the UN system. In this respect there is a natural role for the ACC/SCN to ensure that all parties are acting in a consolidated manner, not forgetting the NGOs in this respect.

Mr Chairman, in short, my country is looking forward to a constructive and fruitful ICN next month.

There is one final point. In the document there is a reference to the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa and to the assistance my country has provided to this programme. I would like to express our appreciation to FAO's Office for Special Relief Operations for the swift and efficient manner it has handled our contributions. It may be foreseen that the Netherlands will continue to make use of this channel to provide humanitarian assistance where it is needed.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie les Pays-Bas pour leur intervention positive.

Il est clair que ce sera au cours de la CIN que le problème devra être soulevé et que des modalités opérationnelles devront être présentées. Je ne doute pas que les Pays-Bas feront des propositions constructives en ce sens.

**Yvan JOBIN (Canada):** L'ampleur des développements récents au sein du système onusien illustre le fait que ce système est en rapide évolution. Ma délégation aimerait signaler un certain nombre d'actions auxquelles le Canada attache une importance particulière.

Tout comme de nombreuses délégations qui se sont déjà exprimées, nous espérons vivement qu'une suite concrète sera donnée sous peu aux propositions visant à renforcer le rôle du Conseil économique et social de l'ONU.

Dans cet esprit le Canada souscrit à la proposition de confier au Conseil économique et social les fonctions assignées dans le "UN nordic Project", un Conseil du développement international.

Nous appuyons également un rôle renforcé pour le Comité administratif de coordination, le CAC, qui regroupe les chefs des agences et des programmes onusiens. A cet égard, nous nous réjouissons de l'intérêt actif manifesté par le secrétaire général de l'ONU, en sa qualité de Président du CAC, pour un rôle plus efficace de ce comité. Le Canada considère comme très important que la relation entre le Conseil économique et social, le CAC et les institutions spécialisées soit renforcée, dans le respect du mandat de chacune des institutions spécialisées. Aux yeux du Canada, l'objectif recherché devrait être d'en arriver à une réelle coordination, fondée sur la complémentarité et l'avantage comparatif des diverses organisations. Il importe en même temps d'obtenir une meilleure efficacité, ce qui constitue un impératif critique dans une période marquée par une croissance des demandes et une décroissance des ressources.

Au nombre des actions positives récentes au sein du système onusien, nous estimons que la nomination d'un coordonnateur des Nations Unies pour l'assistance humanitaire est particulièrement appropriée. La gravité de la situation dans de nombreux points chauds du globe en ce qui a trait à la nécessité de secours d'urgence exige une coordination nettement plus efficace de l'action des diverses agences onusiennes, et un appui réel au mandat du coordonnateur.

Nous aimerions également signaler, parmi les développements positifs récents, le ralliement de la communauté internationale autour du concept essentiel de développement durable, illustré par le Sommet de Rio, l'accent accru placé par le PNUD sur le développement humain, ainsi que les résultats positifs de l'exercice de réforme de la gouvernance du programme alimentaire mondial. Cela dit, il ne s'agit là toutefois que d'une première étape. En effet, il nous incombe maintenant de transformer ces concepts et ces réformes organisationnelles en programmes concrets qui soient en mesure de répondre pleinement aux objectifs et aux besoins identifiés par la communauté internationale.

Par ailleurs, nous attachons une grande importance à une gestion améliorée de la sécurité alimentaire au sein du système onusien. Dans cet esprit, nous espérons vivement que les discussions en cours au sujet de l'avenir du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation seront couronnées de succès.

Ma délégation désire également réitérer la très ferme conviction du Canada que l'ONU et ses institutions spécialisées se doivent d'être à l'avant-garde des efforts visant à promouvoir le rôle de la femme dans la société. Le Canada souhaite aussi voir un nombre nettement plus important de femmes accéder à des postes de responsabilité dans les institutions onusiennes. Depuis trop longtemps, en effet, nous avons sous-estimé la moitié du capital remarquable de talent qui existe sur notre planète. Nous, en tant qu'Etats Membres de l'ONU et de la FAO, devons donc insister pour que soient mis au point de solides plans d'action de nature à assurer que soit pleinement reconnue à la femme la place de partenaire à part entière qui lui revient de droit. Nous souhaiterions de connaître quel est l'état de la situation à la FAO à ce sujet et quels sont les plans de la FAO en ce qui a trait à la mise en application de la Résolution 46/100.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, ma délégation aimerait rappeler le rôle essentiel qui revient à la FAO dans ce mouvement de revitalisation et de renouveau du système onusien. Le rôle de notre Organisation, qui est la plus grande de toutes les institutions spécialisées et sans doute aussi celle qui



a le plus grand potentiel d'influence sur l'ensemble du système onusien, est en effet capital. Le Canada est désireux de continuer de joindre ses efforts à ceux des autres Etats Membres et du secrétariat en vue d'assurer que la FAO soit en mesure de relever avec succès les défis redoutables auxquels elle est confrontée. Les changements apportés à notre organisation depuis 1989, en ce qui a trait notamment à la façon d'établir ses priorités et son plan d'action, ont permis d'améliorer l'efficacité de son action. Ce mouvement positif amorcé en 1989 doit toutefois être poursuivi avec vigueur. En effet, les réalités politiques, sociales, morales et technologiques qui caractérisent notre environnement nous enseignent que le changement est la seule constante avec laquelle nous pouvons compter.

Il en découle que, si elles veulent demeurer vibrantes, efficaces et même simplement viables, les organisations se doivent de se remettre constamment en question, en réexaminant, en redéfinissant et en renouvelant de façon régulière leurs priorités, leurs actions et leurs façons d'agir. La survie, dans le monde en proie à des mutations d'une ampleur sans précédent dans lequel nous vivons, est à ce prix.

Le Canada est fermement d'avis qu'une telle constatation s'applique pour la FAO tout autant que pour le système onusien dans son ensemble. Dans ce contexte, il nous apparaît absolument essentiel que nous, les Etats Membres de la FAO, assumions pleinement la responsabilité collective d'agents de changement qui est la nôtre.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci à l'honorable délégué du Canada pour ses réflexions pleines de sagesse. Je pense qu'il a raison, en ce sens que ce sont les Etats Membres qui forment la FAO, et c'est aux Etats Membres à donner les impulsions, les directives, à présenter les propositions, de façon à ce que les adaptations nécessaires dans un monde en perpétuelle évolution puissent se réaliser dans les meilleures conditions, en renforçant le but et l'organisation de la FAO, dans les perspectives de ses objectifs fondamentaux.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** En primer lugar, Sr. Presidente, queremos en nombre de la delegación de Cuba hacer un reconocimiento tanto al excelente documento, como usted lo ha definido justamente, puesto a nuestra disposición en el documento CL 102/12, el cual hemos leído muy atentamente por la variedad de sus temas que siempre esperamos con interés en cada periodo de estas sesiones, así como a la clara presentación del tema hecho por la Sra. Killingsworth y que si este tema 9 es fundamentalmente de información, ella ha hecho gala de una amplia gama, completa, actualizada, clara e instructiva.

Por ser este documento informativo opinamos que no nos referiremos a todos los puntos que contiene el mismo, precisando que no por ello reconocemos la importancia que cada uno tiene por separado y conjuntamente y de este modo nos acogemos a su llamado, Sr. Presidente, y seremos concretos.

Nuestra delegación ha seguido de cerca la evolución que se produce en el seno de las Naciones Unidas, en Nueva York, en el marco del ECOSOC. Confiamos que las discusiones en marcha lleven a feliz término en modo más útil para el futuro funcionamiento de la misma dentro de un enfoque de equidad sin hegemonía.

Señor Presidente, nuestra delegación ha tomado nota de los párrafos 2.17 al 2.22, sobre la Promoción de la Mujer que ilustra la acción de la FAO en favor de la promoción de la mujer en el desarrollo. Es interés de Cuba el que la Organización mantenga vivo el espíritu de las resoluciones aprobadas en este sentido y aboga porque este tema se mantenga como fuera prioritario en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para este bienio y para el Plan a Plazo Medio. Instamos a que se agilicen los trabajos en el interior de la Organización a la IV Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer prevista en China en 1995.

Nuestra delegación apoya los pasos que se han venido dando para la celebración de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición y asistirá a la misma convencida de que la declaración y el Plan de Acción pueden ser eficientes y útiles instrumentos para el seguimiento en los países, además del compromiso formal de la comunidad internacional en favor del mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de sus respectivos pueblos.

Señor Presidente, Cuba apreció por su contenido la Declaración de Barcelona sobre los derechos alimentarios por su especial importancia para la FAO, pues ésta se ocupa en primera línea por los derechos a los alimentos. Por ello, nuestro país reafirma su apoyo a esta Declaración que, entre otras cosas, indica que los alimentos no deben utilizarse como armas políticas, ni es permisible que bloqueos internacionales, regionales o locales limiten el acceso a los alimentos, párrafo 2.49 del presente documento CL 102/12.

Señor Presidente, creemos que nuestra delegación ha sido siempre muy clara en su posición de los beneficios sobre la política multilateral por su amplio enfoque y participación representativa, equilibrada, democrática y transparente así como también de lo que representa la FAO como principal órgano especializado en la agricultura y la alimentación dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para los países en vías de desarrollo, que no creo necesario repetir, por el alto criterio de su óptimo trabajo y valiente política.

Hemos oído con interés los comentarios sobre algunas consideraciones, sobre reformas, o reestructuraciones dentro de las Naciones Unidas, en los que la sesión de hoy ha sido rica, aun cuando tenemos entendido que el tema era sólo informativo, pero en vista de algunos pronunciamientos, no queremos dejar pasar por alto nuestra posición en lo referente a nuestra Organización. Sólo invito a recordar las numerosas delegaciones que hicieron público reconocimiento y felicitación a la declaración del Director General de la FAO en la inauguración de este 102 a período de sesiones, razón por la cual también invito a recordar una parte de sus palabras que debemos tener en cuenta con evidente atención.

Explicaba el Dr. Saouma, refiriéndose a introducir reformas que nos afectarían directamente: "Esta observación es válida para todas las instituciones del sistema, pero tiene un relieve particular en el caso de la FAO. En efecto, nuestra Organización ha emprendido ya por sí misma una reforma exhaustiva, que la pone en condiciones de ejercer una acción aún más eficaz que en el pasado. Durante dos años, nuestras actividades fueron objeto de un examen a fondo a cargo de expertos independientes".

Por el momento esta es también nuestra posición, pues cada organización tiene y presenta características propias.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais faire une communication avant de continuer le débat.

Le Président du Comité de rédaction, M. Drake, demande que l'annonce soit faite à tous les membres du Comité de rédaction que la première réunion se tiendra immédiatement après la présente session du Conseil. Suivant les prévisions, cette session pourrait se clôturer vers 18 heures 30 et la réunion du Comité de rédaction se tiendra, dès la clôture de notre session, dans la Salle du Mexique.

**Ms Maria Luisa GAVINO (Philippines):** My intervention will be very brief. I will dwell only on the portion on humanitarian and emergency assistance, particularly paragraphs 1.42 and 1.43 of document CL 102/12, which describe the disaster wrought by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in June 1991. The catastrophe is a continuing one, with mud flows going on even as I speak now. The Philippine delegation would therefore like to register its appreciation to FAO in general and WFP, TCP and OSRO, in particular, not to mention all the other donors, for the assistance and relief which has greatly helped the victims and helped us in the rehabilitation of vast tracts of affected farmlands, including fishery areas.

I thank you, Mr Chairman, and the Secretariat for the document.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the Philippines for her intervention. I also think that the TCP is a very important element for developing countries to try to help them following disasters.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Hemos leído con mucha atención los aspectos que sobre la reestructuración y revitalización de la Asamblea General y del ECOSOC contiene, con carácter informativo, el presente documento CL 102/12 que estudiamos. Nos enteramos por eso que "El Comité sobre el Aprovechamiento y la Utilización de Fuentes de Energía Nuevas y Renovables mantendrá su mandato actual, incluido el examen de sus relaciones con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo. Además, se ocupará del mandato actual del ex Comité de Recursos Naturales en cuanto a energía para el desarrollo." Nos satisface esto, por cuanto cabe ello dentro de las preocupaciones que nuestra Organización, la FAO, ha mantenido en estos dos últimos años cuando ha iniciado, anticipándose a esta decisión de la Asamblea General, una revitalización de sus programas, luego de haber estudiado a fondo mediante un análisis exhaustivo sus programas y de haber recibido de un comité externo la evaluación que correspondía como una acción satisfactoria y eficiente y, sin embargo, la FAO ha iniciado una serie de programas que están revitalizando la acción de la FAO en cuanto se refiere a su mandato, de acuerdo con sus Textos Básicos, esto es, la atención a la agricultura, a la alimentación, a la conservación de los recursos que ha traducido en una serie de programas, todos los cuales van en satisfacción de los principios de las Naciones Unidas en cuanto a justicia, en cuanto a equidad y atención a las grandes mayorías del mundo.

Por esa razón, consideramos satisfactorio que la FAO, que se caracteriza por su gran capacidad para iniciativas que aportan retos y marcan nuevas ideas de cambio esté recibiendo hoy en este Consejo el reconocimiento de muchas delegaciones con relación a sus atinados programas que van en beneficio de los países del tercer mundo, principalmente de los países en vías de desarrollo,

porque la FAO ha centrado sus programas en los últimos ocho años - yo puedo ser testigo por estar aquí participando en estas reuniones - en atención a la pobreza, en la manera de aliviar la pobreza, ha desarrollado la atención a los países en vías de desarrollo con grandes necesidades y ha afrontado el reto del hambre. Nos tocó presenciar aquí, al inicio de nuestra gestión, la gran campaña en favor de los países africanos, cuando sufrieron el enfrentamiento con el hambre en los años 1985-1986.

Por esa razón, debe ser muy satisfactorio para quienes respaldamos sinceramente la acción de esta Organización y contribuimos a que ella pueda salir adelante enfrentando estas dificultades, que hoy las Naciones Unidas estén tomando el camino que ya había marcado la FAO, poniendo en el centro de sus preocupaciones la pobreza y el desarrollo sostenible que son ideas y programas ya tomados por la FAO anticipadamente.

Por eso, deberíamos sentirnos satisfechos de que las proposiciones presentadas por nuestro Director General ante la reunión del ECOSOC mantengan en alto el papel que corresponde a esta Organización especializada, en su labor en beneficio de la humanidad. No necesitamos leer las proposiciones que fueron hechas ante el ECOSOC por el Director General de la FAO, quien encabezaba nuestra delegación, pero no hay duda de que sus palabras representan el sentimiento, el pensamiento de los países en desarrollo, que no solamente estamos sufriendo en parte esta situación de pobreza al ver disminuidas nuestras posibilidades, países que una vez por razones de la naturaleza pudimos disfrutar de situaciones de beneficio y vemos hoy reducidas nuestras posibilidades por la circunstancia de no poseer ya las ventajas que nos daban esos recursos naturales.

Por esa razón, la atención que la FAO presta fundamentalmente a la agricultura, a los bosques, a la pesca, desde el punto de vista de su conservación, desde el punto de vista de la atención que se les debe prestar para su mejor aprovechamiento es una función de la mayor importancia y de la máxima prioridad, tal como lo están entendiendo hoy las Naciones Unidas en su nueva manera de mirar su responsabilidad. Porque debemos ser sinceros y saber que en los últimos años las Naciones Unidas habían prestado atención a otros aspectos de la vida política del mundo, y habían descuidado esta necesidad, que sólo la FAO había llevado en alto con sus programas, sosteniendo la defensa de la pobreza, la defensa de los desvalidos en el mundo, con la asistencia técnica, que es la única que puede dar en mejorar sus condiciones, con sus Programas de Cooperación Técnica y sus Programas de Campo.

Por esa razón, nosotros no podemos hacer otra cosa que respaldar la decisión de traer este papel de trabajo a nuestro conocimiento en el Consejo, documento que no está en debate, que es simplemente para información, pero que nos puede llevar y que nos debería llevar a transferir a nuestros gobiernos la necesidad de llevar a cabo en los programas efectivos, en los programas concretos para ello, estas ideas que representan las prioridades en la investigación y en la financiación de estos programas a nivel nacional, que es el único ámbito en que podrían trabajar los gobiernos.

Por eso, pienso que expresando aquí nuestro apoyo al mantenimiento de la política de trabajo que ha seguido la FAO en procurar recursos suficientes, estables y seguros a las actividades operativas para beneficio de los países de menores recursos en el mundo, debemos decir que si la FAO sigue por ese camino, estará cumpliendo, a cabalidad, no solamente con el papel que le corresponde como organismo especializado de las Naciones Unidas, sino lo que

es más importante, estará cumpliendo con la satisfacción de las esperanzas. Millones de gentes en el mundo, en las comunidades más desposeídas, tienen puestos sus ojos en la FAO, porque ha sido realmente la Organización que hasta ahora ha tratado de satisfacer sus necesidades, de atender sus verdaderas necesidades.

No necesitamos enumerar aquí los programas que la FAO ha desarrollado a lo largo de su existencia, pero sobre todo en este momento. Basta recordar que el desarrollo sostenible, la agricultura sostenible, están dirigidos fundamentalmente a los campesinos pobres, aquellos que no tienen tierras, que no tienen capital para desarrollar estas actividades; que la FAO toma en cuenta en primera línea a la mujer, principalmente a la mujer campesina, porque sabe bien que es éste el factor principal en la producción agrícola. Sin la ayuda de la mujer, la innumerable cantidad de pequeños países que no tienen recursos económicos no podrían producir siquiera la mínima subsistencia para sobrevivir.

Termino diciendo que nosotros no podemos por menos que expresar nuestra satisfacción porque la FAO se mantenga como líder de las organizaciones que tienen preocupación por el bienestar de la humanidad y que mantenga la vanguardia en cuanto a la iniciativa para atender a las necesidades de los pueblos, dentro de la familia de las Naciones Unidas.

**Takayoshi ISHIDERA (Japan):** Japan would like to thank the Secretariat for their efforts in providing such a useful document on this Agenda Item in such a concise manner.

First of all, Japan is of the view that the coordination system under UN General Assembly Resolution 2688 in 1970 has not always functioned well. In order to improve this situation, in 1989 the UN General Assembly, through Resolution 44/211, launched such policies as the strengthening and the utilization of the national capacities of developing countries, recalling the role of the UNDP as the central funding mechanism for the UN system of technical cooperation, and so on. In addition, the UNDP Governing Council in 1991 adopted the Support Cost Successor Arrangement from the viewpoint that specialized agencies should provide such intellectual contribution in the upstream a sectoral analysis, advice to project design, and appraisal rather than execution of projects.

Japan has been supporting the aforementioned trend from the point of view of strengthening efficiency and the coordination of UN development activities. In this context, FAO should endeavour to transfer its core of activities to the intellectual contribution in the upstream originally required. It is necessary that FAO carry out its restructuring and elevate the capacity of its staff in order to realize those efforts.

Secondly, with regard to FAO activities related to humanitarian and emergency assistance, Japan appreciates that FAO, through its Global Information and Early Warning System, continued to alert the international community to the deteriorating food situation in Africa.

FAO participated actively in the ministerial conference on rehabilitation in Cambodia which was held in Tokyo in June 1992 and was formally attended by 33 nations, 12 international organizations and the representative of the EC. At the conference FAO stated, "FAO stands ready to provide technical

assistance to the Government of Cambodia in cooperation with the donor community on the full range of rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks that fall within our mandate." Japan evaluates FAO's contribution to this Conference as significant for the establishment of international assistance to Cambodia.

Thirdly, let my delegation touch upon ICN. Recognizing the improvement of the nutritional condition of all the people on earth is one of the most important targets of human welfare which could be achieved through social development, and adhering the significance of ICN which is the first trial in the history of a UN agency to challenge hunger and malnutrition from the aspect of nutrition, my Government will participate with ICN based on cooperation among the ministries concerned with agriculture and health. A large number of people is still suffering from hunger and malnutrition, notwithstanding technological development and global information networks. My Government strongly hopes that ICN will surely provide a substantial impact on all governments and related organizations to solve this problem.

Finally, I should like to touch upon the future of WFC which has been discussed in the WFC ministerial session, and is now under deliberation in the UN General Assembly. It is regrettable that WFC has failed to provide the level of political leadership and coordinating function among international agencies concerned, which the founders expected.

My Government never wished that the total activities concerning world food security of related UN agencies would be weakened. In this connection, we expected FAO to enhance its function concerned with World Food Security within the mandate including monitoring, analysing and policy advice.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vais me permettre de faire une petite réflexion. Je pense que la dernière partie de votre exposé démontre parfaitement qu'il n'y a pas, dans le domaine qui nous occupe de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, d'activités intellectuelles valables sans un contact étroit avec les réalités du terrain. C'est à mon avis un point particulièrement important et vous en avez fait indirectement la démonstration dans la dernière partie de votre exposé.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** As you would expect, I intervene on this agenda Item in the interest of the 13 Member States of the CARICOM Region of Latin America and the Caribbean Region of FAO. It was not my intention to intervene, but, having regard to our secret pact with my colleague on my right, I determined that I should intervene in the debate on this particular item.

As we approach the third millennium, we look forward to a brave new world, with greater understanding and cooperation between developing and developed countries in the wider interests of humanity. In that context, having regard to the far-reaching responsibilities entrusted to the United Nations and its related agencies, one obviously looks forward to, and in fact demands, greater cooperation and collaboration amongst these agencies in the relevant fields, as they prosecute their mandates.

Therefore, we welcome this document which speaks of activities in this regard. We are happy to note the involvement of FAO, its participation in these activities, hoping, as members of the Council, one of its Governing Bodies,

that the Organization has not only been influenced by events that are taking place, but in fact is also influencing these events.

We believe that the Organization is well placed so to do because, as we understand it, the system is being examined with a view to restructuring and to revitalization. I would suggest that the FAO is well placed to influence actions in this regard in view of the exercises which we ourselves have been engaged in prior to 1989 - exercises which have led to some fundamental rethinking of what we do and how we do what we do. One area of note is a greater and more targeted approach, and a seemingly greater injection of strategic thinking in the way programmes have been formulated by the Organization.

My delegation is of the view that this fundamental re-look by the Organization that has taken place, and this commitment to a strategic way of acting and managing, provides the mechanism for self-renewal and self-analysis which will enable the Organization to accommodate any changes that are taking place that are of relevance to the Organization - changes that would be consistent, of course, with its mandate for the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. We would hope that, to the extent that any of the deliberations taking place outside the forum of the Governing Bodies of the Organization that have significant implication for the conduct of the Organization's business, and moreover for organization change, would be brought fully to the notice of the membership of the Organization for discussion, debate and decision.

We would wish us to keep fully in mind - fully understanding that we live in a world of change and there is a need for continual self-renewal, self-reflection and self-assessment - that as an Organization we do not become subject to paralysis by analysis, and that we are very much honed to the fact that while we deliberate and agonize as necessary, and time must be spent in that regard, there is work to be done in the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

I thought that I should reflect these concerns to clarify a view I expressed earlier, and to leave no doubt about the need for this continuous self-renewal, but we must ensure there is some balance in how we go about our business.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je suis convaincu que vous avez usé de la voix de la sagesse dans les réflexions très judicieuses et de grand bon sens que vous venez de faire. Je vous remercie très vivement de votre intervention particulièrement concrète, précise et opérationnelle.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** First, I should like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the informative document before us. As indicated in the introductory statement, the document before us is for information. It is not my intention to touch on the whole subject of the document. In general,

we believe that all matters related to food, agriculture, forestry and fishery issues should go to the United Nations in New York from Rome, through FAO, WFP, IFAD and WFC.

Regarding the subject of the World Food Council in this document, I should like to support the statements made by the Delegates of Italy and France because we believe that WFC should continue its work as a policy-making and

coordinating body in relation to food issues, and its mandate should be reviewed as it is taking place in New York at the present time.

**Eulogii BONEV (UNDP):** Under the chapter headed Operational Activities for Development, in paragraphs 1.44 to 1.53 of document CL 102/12, the FAO Secretariat provides information on relevant matters discussed during the last UNDP Governing Council session in May 1992 in Geneva.

Particular references are made on support costs successor arrangements. References to the same subject are made in the reports of the last sessions of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee of FAO, document CL 102/17. I have provided an information note on the status of approvals in the fifth programming cycle and associated issues including national execution, the situation of agencies subject to the new support costs arrangements, as well as other matters such as training workshops to familiarize field practitioners including government officials and representatives of UNDP and agencies in the application of the new support costs mechanisms, and the underlying policy framework approved by the Governing Council of the UNDP.

Thanks to your kind arrangements, Mr Chairman, and those of the Secretary-General of the Council, the paper may have been distributed in the pigeonholes of Council members, and I will not refer to it. I hope that you already have it in your possession, but if not you may check your pigeonhole.

The paper contains useful and updated information which may clarify some of the issues raised in document CL 102/12, as well as those raised during this discussion. However, I have taken very careful note of the comments made by the various speakers and I will transmit them to my colleague, the Deputy Director of the UNDP Office from Geneva, who will attend the rest of the Council meeting from Monday onwards. At that time, and during the discussion of Agenda Item 11 in relation to document CL 102/17 he will be making a statement on the subject whereby care will also be taken to answer some of the questions which have been raised so far and which may be raised during further discussions.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Puis-je faire remarquer que la question des dépenses d'appui fera l'objet d'une discussion et éventuellement d'une décision dans le cadre du point 16 de l'ordre du jour qui sera discuté le mardi 17 novembre après-midi.

Il y a encore un membre du Conseil qui a demandé à prendre la parole: l'Ambassadeur de Colombie.

**Iván MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia):** Deseamos intervenir en este punto del orden del día, Sr. Presidente, sólo para reafirmar aquí nuestro interés en los cambios que se realizan dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y que son el reflejo y la consecuencia de las transformaciones que se verifican en el mundo. Nosotros estamos comprometidos con esos cambios, señor Presidente. La humanidad evoluciona en forma vertiginosa y los organismos y los instrumentos hechos para servirla tienen que acomodarse a las realidades, a las actualidades y a las expectativas hacia el porvenir.



El hombre y los Estados, los Estados que son la expresión política de los pueblos, pierden interés en las organizaciones que no sirven a sus necesidades directas, que no interpretan sus vivencias y sus anhelos. Las herramientas de trabajo que no evolucionan, que no se modernizan, son abandonadas y pierden importancia. Ese es el reto de las Naciones Unidas y de sus agencias, incluyendo a la FAO. Desde su fundación hasta ahora, a lo largo de casi medio siglo, se han producido sobre la tierra los cambios más profundos de los que se tenga memoria en la tecnología, en la economía y en la política. Nada es igual ahora en estos campos a lo que nosotros mismos conocimos unos pocos años atrás. Si las Naciones Unidas, y en nuestro caso la FAO, no interpretan los cambios y las aspiraciones de esta época y no se sintonizan con la dinámica de estos tiempos, serán superadas, marginadas en el interés de la gente y de sus gobernantes. La juventud, señor Presidente y señores Miembros del Consejo, la juventud es muy cruel y aquello que no vibra en su interés y se queda en el pasado porque no quiso comprometerse con el futuro, es descartado y se muere. Muy cerca de nosotros vienen unas generaciones jóvenes impetuosas y en algunos aspectos desesperadas. Dejémosles cosas útiles que les sirvan para su progreso. Para eso necesitamos cambiar con inteligencia, pero con determinación, estas organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas que hoy reposan en nuestras manos.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais quand même faire une petite remarque, c'est que l'acte constitutif de la FAO est resté d'une étrange jeunesse. Il a été examiné puis réexaminé très longuement il y a quelques mois et je crois qu'il est parfois utile de le relire.

Si ceux qui veulent des changements pour des changements, souhaitent redéfinir la fonction de la FAO, il serait peut-être utile de le faire au regard d'une lecture réfléchie et approfondie de l'acte constitutif qui nous régit.

Nous arrivons maintenant au terme d'un débat qui a été particulièrement intéressant, riche, et divers, puisqu'il a abordé de nombreux sujets extrêmement vastes.

Il sera difficile de tirer des conclusions d'ensemble puisque il a été traité de la Conférence de la nutrition, du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, en passant par la définition des activités du PNUD, de la restructuration de la réforme, de l'aide humanitaire, du sommet pour le développement social, de la promotion de la femme. Ce sont, en effet, des sujets variés qui sont à suivre de façon constante.

Au demeurant, un certain nombre de questions précises ont été posées, questions auxquelles Mme Killingsworth va maintenant essayer de répondre de la meilleure façon possible.

**Ms K. KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for External Relations):** I would like first of all to thank the Council for the various expressions of appreciation for the document. I regret that a few delegates felt that it was not ambitious enough, but that is a point I would like to come back to later.

First and foremost, I would say that we have taken careful note of all the interventions. We have particularly noted the support by a number of Council Members for, for instance, the work that the Organization has carried out in the past few months, in close cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian

Affairs of the United Nations, in the area of emergency relief and humanitarian assistance.

As will have been obvious from the document, it is an area to which we attach a great deal of importance. In that connection I would particularly like to note the intervention of the delegate of the Netherlands who expressed his satisfaction with the work carried out by the Office for Special Relief Operations, and indicated that the Netherlands would envisage continuing to support the activities for these very important agricultural relief and rehabilitation activities, for which often it is quite difficult to obtain donor funding because, of course, of the competing demands of other forms of relief assistance.

Secondly, we have also noted the many statements welcoming the Organization's work on drug abuse control, again in a UN system-wide context, on the preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition, and on the Organization's work to promote the advancement of women, particularly rural women.

In that connection a few questions were asked. The delegate of Morocco asked what was the scope and time-frame of Resolution 46/100. I would confirm that this resolution is in fact applicable to the UN Secretariat itself. It urges the Secretary-General to accord priority to the recruitment of women. Here I would point out that they are talking about women essentially in professional and higher management posts and not the overall recruitment of women. I think organizations like United Nations and FAO, and most others if you consider the total staff, very often have a majority of women.

In addition, there was a question asked about the present situation regarding women in the professional and higher categories in FAO itself. The latest figures I have here, which are as at 31 October 1992, indicate an overall percentage of 12.9 percent for women in professional and higher categories. The percentage is, perhaps not surprisingly, higher at headquarters where it is 19.4 percent. We have 10.3 percent in Regional Offices and Joint Divisions, and a lower percentage, 3.8 percent, in the field which reflects the difficulties which have been encountered in recruiting women for certain field posts. But, as you know, this has been our priority and a great deal of attention is being paid to increasing that percentage as much as possible.

Other comments were made with regard to the World Summit on the Advancement of Rural Women which was organized by IFAD and I am pleased to inform Council Members that FAO was not only represented at the Summit but also contributed substantially to the preparatory meetings for the Summit. FAO's previous experience and work on rural women, particularly through its Plan of Action, enabled it to make very specific inputs.

Mr Chairman, another comment - and here I am still speaking about what is reported in the document itself - was made by the United Kingdom delegate with regard to the discussion at the Coordination Segment of ECOSOC this summer. He stated that our report failed to mention that reports of the agencies were not well received and that ECOSOC had required further reporting of a more substantial nature, and he asked what steps FAO was taking to ensure a better performance at the 1993 ECOSOC. I think there must be some misunderstanding here and I would like to try and correct it. In fact, I was very surprised because we had no indication of this. First of all we did not, as FAO, table a report. There was a UN system paper submitted to ECOSOC for the discussion

on the coordination of efforts to eradicate poverty, and individual agencies made statements to ECOSOC.

The only thing I can think he, the United Kingdom delegate, might perhaps have been referring to was, not that the statements were not "well received", but that they were not received at all. A misunderstanding took place within the UN Secretariat. We were asked to provide copies of the statement, I think 24 or 48 hours in advance, to allow delegations to study them before the debate. We did in fact do that and I personally carried our statements to New York several days in advance. I know that they were there, but they were not distributed.

On the other hand, the question of the document is a little more complex, and since the United Kingdom delegate asked what we were doing about improvements for 1993, I think it is perhaps instructive to go back and look at what actually happened with regard to that document. We were first of all asked by the UN Secretariat in late 1991 to produce inputs for a thematic analysis on poverty as a result of an early request by ECOSOC in 1991 for such a thematic analysis to be presented this year.

We provided a rather long, detailed, and I think, very analytical document to the UN Secretariat at the end of December 1991 but subsequently ECOSOC, at its Organizational Session in February 1992, decided that the subject would be taken up at the Coordination Segment this past summer and asked for a document from the UN System as a whole which would be slightly different. We were then requested to provide a different kind of input, which input we did provide in about March of this year.

The result of this and other inputs was a document which unfortunately had to be put together very, very fast, I think this is not something one can blame anybody for; it takes a long time to produce a good document based on contributions from perhaps up to thirty organizations. What we were eventually asked to approve, as a UN System contribution, I think we all felt could have been a good deal better but we were all very conscious of the fact that in the time scale available it would have been very difficult to do much more. We have, as a group, in the ACC machinery put forward a suggestion through the UN Secretariat, to the Bureau of ECOSOC, with our major proposal for better performance in the future being that perhaps ECOSOC could give us more than two months' notice of the subject for which we should provide a document, which according to UN rules has to be available in all languages six weeks before discussion. I am sure you will appreciate that in the space of two months it is simply not possible to write a document, obtain comments, obtain inputs from all agencies, put them all together, revise it and approve it. I will not go on too long as I think perhaps I have made the point but I can assure you that, in fact, we the agencies had a number of very positive comments, including one from the United Kingdom delegate, during the discussion at the Coordination Segment, on our efforts to participate in the dialogue and bring about greater understanding of the point of view of the specialized agencies in such matters.

Going on to the questions raised by a number of delegates concerning what is not in the document, as I explained earlier, we are in a slightly difficult situation because it is very difficult to provide you with urgent analyses concerning a process which is not completed in New York, and on which there are no official documents we can bring to your attention.

The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago said that he felt FAO should influence events rather than submitting to them, and that events, decisions with implications for FAO, should be brought to the attention of the Governing Bodies. As you know, this always has been done in the past and we have done it in recent Councils, for example with regard to the question of operational activities for development, when decisions have been available to bring to your attention with their implications.

In the whole area of restructuring of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, as one or two Members pointed out this afternoon, we are talking about a process which at the moment is primarily UN-based. It may have implications for the specialized agencies but at the moment it is going on within the Governing Bodies of the UN itself and concerning UN programmes rather than the specialized agencies such as FAO or WHO or others. However, the Director-General in his opening statement to the Council did draw attention to his own concern that decisions could be taken in these fora, again, of course, regarding the programmes which come within the purview of the General Assembly, but which could have very far-reaching implications for the Organization; that these decisions could be taken without the benefit of the views of the Organization, and by that I think he meant not just the views of the Secretariat but the views of the Governing Bodies the Council, or the Conference; that these views had not been sought and only if they were to be sought could they be transmitted in the most appropriate way.

One example of this, which has been brought up several times this afternoon, is proposals for an International Development Council which might be a subsidiary body of ECOSOC. This is, as I would stress, a proposal and it has been talked about. We have seen some papers (or what are known in New York as "non-papers" because they are not official documents) which have suggested this. We have pointed out on a number of occasions to delegates who have asked our views informally that in the proposals for bringing together Governing Bodies of the four or five funding programmes involved, one of those programmes is WFP which also reports to the FAO Council and thus through to the FAO Conference. Not only has FAO gone through a process of review culminating in 1989 but also in 1991 the FAO Conference, as well as the General Assembly, had already adopted revised procedures for governance of this programme.

The question really is: Are all of these factors being brought to the attention of those who are discussing these matters in New York, and not whether the Secretariat has any particular views to express on them here. However, a number of questions have been raised requiring some response from the Secretariat and its views on some of these issues. Therefore, Mr Chairman, I would like to ask you if you would kindly give the floor to Mr Regnier, who might reply to some of the specific questions with regard to operational activities.

**A. REGNIER (Sous-Directeur général, Département du Développement):** Comme Mme Killingsworth a répondu à un très grand nombre de questions, je voudrais me borner à un aspect du débat: les questions opérationnelles, et essayer de répondre à un certain nombre de questions ou de préoccupations qui ont été posées ou soulevées.

Je voudrais me référer à l'intervention du Représentant de la Suède, et en particulier à sa remarque selon laquelle l'intervention de la FAO au deuxième

Comité de l'Assemblée générale serait apparu comme une critique du financement central du PNUD. Je voudrais à ce sujet le rassurer. Notre intervention ne doit pas être considérée comme une critique du financement central du PNUD, mais doit être vue à la mesure de la préoccupation que les événements actuels nous procurent, en particulier, la mise en oeuvre des nouveaux arrangements du PNUD.

Je m'explique à cet égard. Les activités de terrain de la FAO, comme vous le savez, ont été financées, en 1991 par exemple, pour 44 pour cent par le PNUD, pour 48 pour cent par les Fonds fiduciaires, qui dépassent donc le PNUD, le reste couvert par le Programme de Coopération technique. Le PNUD est donc le principal partenaire individuel des activités de terrain de la FAO, et reste un partenaire majeur avec lequel nous souhaitons avoir la plus intime, la plus étroite et la plus coordonnée des collaborations et des coopérations.

Mais notre préoccupation, celle que nous avons exprimée à New York, est au moins de deux ordres: d'abord, c'est que nous avons constaté à travers le temps une érosion de notre niveau d'activité financée par le PNUD pour toutes sortes de raison, que je ne vais pas mentionner ici. Alors que nous étions dans le passé le principal partenaire agent d'exécution du PNUD, tout le monde sait que nous avons maintenant régressé substantiellement, et que le Bureau des services d'appui au projet du PNUD, par exemple, est en passe de devenir le principal agent d'exécution du PNUD. Le PNUD agit donc à la fois comme source de financement, comme coordinateur et comme exécutant de ses propres programmes par un renforcement de ses capacités opérationnelles. Ceci va donc bien au-delà du rôle de financement central.

La deuxième préoccupation était la suivante, c'est que le nouveau régime des dépenses d'appui du PNUD, qui maintenant a presque un an de vie puisqu'il a démarré au 1er janvier de cette année et qu'il est devenu obligatoire au 1er juillet, ce nouveau régime est lent à démarrer. Les directives envoyées par le PNUD sur le terrain sont encore insuffisantes pour permettre dans bien des cas aux représentants résidents d'agir, et la formation vient à peine de commencer. En réalité la FAO avait pris les devants en commençant à former ses propres agents avant que le système actuel de formation, qui implique le PNUD, le gouvernement et les agences, ait démarré quelque part après la période d'été, au mois de septembre. Toujours est-il que le régime actuel a été lent à démarrer et que nous nous trouvons dans une période de vide dans les approbations.

Je ne veux pas exagérer, parce que je sais qu'en début de cycle il y a toujours une baisse. Il n'empêche que pour ce qui est de la FAO, sur le nouveau régime du PNUD, le total des projets approuvés jusqu'à présent s'élève à 12 pour un total de 6,2 millions de dollars, dont seulement 900 000 dollars pour les services d'appui soit administratifs et opérationnels, soit technique. En plus de cela, il est vrai qu'une décision a été prise par le PNUD pour une première tranche d'appui technique au niveau des programmes pour 6,7 millions de dollars, pour lesquels nous allons mettre en place les activités en amont des projets.

Au stade actuel il y a donc un très faible niveau d'approbation sur le nouveau régime, au point que selon les prévisions que nous avons faites jusqu'à présent les dépenses pour la période 1992-1993 pourraient être inférieures à 30 pour cent à celles de la période 1991. C'est la préoccupation que nous avons exprimée, non pas parce que nous voulions contester en quoi que ce soit

l'importance du financement par le PNUD, mais parce que nous sommes inquiets de cette évolution un peu trop lente.

A ce rythme, il y a un risque que les agences spécialisées - elles sont cinq à qui s'appliquent le nouveau régime et les cinq agences en question ont la même préoccupation que nous quant au niveau de flexion des approbations - ces agences, dis-je, pourraient progressivement être marginalisées si on n'accélère pas le pas.

D'où la raison pour laquelle le Comité administratif de coordination a demandé, dans la déclaration que Mme Killingsworth a déjà mentionné dans son intervention, d'accélérer la mise en oeuvre du nouveau système, d'accélérer les approbations et de procéder à une évaluation déjà en 1993 de manière à assurer que les services techniques, en particulier, des agences soient complètement utilisés par le PNUD.

J'en viens à la seconde question importante soulevée par le délégué de la Suède, qui a demandé si la FAO s'ajustait à ces nouvelles perspectives et aux développements sur la scène internationale, y compris au sein du système des Nations Unies. Je voudrais à cet égard lui donner un certain nombre de réponses pour lui montrer que nous n'agissons pas de manière passive en attendant les événements.

D'abord, la notion d'exécution nationale. Une des raisons pour lesquelles probablement le niveau d'activité avec le PNUD des agences va baisser, c'est l'exécution nationale. La FAO depuis toujours s'est déclarée extrêmement favorable à l'exécution nationale dans tous les cas où elle est faisable, où les capacités sur place existent. La FAO a peut-être été la première agence à employer sur large échelle les directeurs de projets nationaux, à organiser des séminaires de formation pour les directeurs de projets nationaux à la formulation et à la gestion des projets. Ce que nous voudrions cependant, c'est que la notion d'exécution nationale ne soit pas antinomique de celle d'assistance et de conseil et d'implication des agences, qui peuvent apporter, dans des projets qui sont exécutés nationalement, un certain nombre de contributions. Pour ce faire, je pense que les agences devraient être impliquées très tôt dans le cycle des projets et que, par conséquent, des directives devraient être au niveau du système des Nations Unies par le PNUD et les agences en commun pour assurer que la consultation entre partenaires soit menée en temps utile avant la décision.

En second lieu, la FAO a certainement intensifié ses activités en amont des projets au niveau des programmes dans les dernières années, que ce soit pour l'examen sectoriel ou sous-sectoriel dans certains pays, que ce soit pour des conseils en matière de politique, et nous allons prendre avantage au maximum de ce que j'ai appelé tout à l'heure les services d'appui technique au niveau des programmes pour assurer aux pays récipiendaires, les services et les expertises que nous pouvons leur offrir. Ceci aboutira très certainement à devoir renforcer les services techniques de l'Organisation pour être en mesure de fournir ces nouveaux types de services en amont des projets. Probablement nous serons ainsi amenés à exécuter moins de projets directement sous la forme classique de l'exécution par input.

En troisième lieu, nous avons discuté ce matin de la révision des programmes d'action spéciaux dans un autre contexte, celui de la suite de la Conférence de Rio. Mais c'est une manière de s'ajuster aux nouveaux types de demande de services que la FAO va devoir prendre. Nous espérons pouvoir, de cette

manière, recentrer une partie de nos activités de terrain sur ces grandes priorités qui sont un des grands événements qui ont fait irruption sur la scène internationale ces dernières années.

Enfin, l'approche par programme. Nous avons également favorisé dans le passé, et nous sommes disposés de le faire à l'avenir, l'approche par programme et, comme le Représentant de l'Inde nous a posé une question directe sur ce plan, je voudrais lui répondre en prenant l'exemple de son pays. Avec l'appui du Programme de coopération technique en Inde, en 1990, nous avons lancé un véritable exercice de programmation qui avait pour but de centrer le programme du cinquième cycle du PNUD en ce qui concerne l'agriculture sur un petit nombre de secteurs où le gouvernement était intéressé et où la FAO aurait pu apporter, avec son avantage comparatif, son expertise. Cela a abouti à la sélection de quatre secteurs majeurs qui correspondaient bien à ceux du Plan Quinquennal de l'Inde qui étaient prioritaires et pour lesquels nous pouvions apporter une contribution valable en utilisant notre expertise et notre avantage comparatif. Nous l'avons fait également au Pakistan et au Népal et nous sommes disposés, en collaboration avec le PNUD et j'espère grâce au financement du PNUD, à pouvoir le faire sur une échelle beaucoup plus vaste dans d'autres cas.

Pour cette approche par programme, pour laquelle il faut bien le dire jusqu'à présent la base méthodologique n'est pas très sûre, le PNUD lui-même a organisé plusieurs séminaires récemment pour essayer de définir ce que l'on entend par approche par programme, lui donner un contenu opérationnel. Nous avons participé dans certains cas à ces séminaires. Il y reste cependant beaucoup de travail méthodologique à faire et nous attendons toujours les directives que le PNUD s'est engagé à préparer, j'espère en collaboration avec nous.

Je me suis permis d'utiliser ces deux points de l'intervention du délégué de la Suède, pour faire un tour assez vaste des questions opérationnelles et des problèmes que nous avons devant nous.

Le dernier point est l'impact de tout cela au niveau du terrain et également l'impact éventuel de la restructuration du système des Nations Unies. Nous sommes dans une période intermédiaire. Une série de propositions sont sur la table mais l'analyse de leurs conséquences est difficile à faire à ce stade parce que nous ne savons pas ce que les Etats Membres, à l'Assemblée Générale, vont prendre comme orientation.

Ce que je voudrais dire, en rappelant ce que le Directeur général disait dans son intervention au début de ce Conseil, c'est que le système des Nations Unies est, par nature, polycentrique, qu'il faut préserver la spécificité de chaque agence, chacune d'elles possédant une expérience et une expertise irremplaçables. Ceci ne signifie pas que nous ne pouvons pas progresser dans le sens d'une coordination plus intense. La FAO a été très active dans le Comité consultatif des questions substantives et opérationnelles pour définir et voir comment renforcer le rôle du Représentant Coordinateur des Nations Unies. Plus récemment, dans le cas des urgences, avec la création du Département de l'assistance humanitaire dirigée par M. Eliason, M. Hjort a dit combien la FAO avait participé intensément au Comité permanent interagences sur les urgences. En fait, notre ambition est qu'à travers une consultation aussi intense que possible au niveau local, non seulement nous soyons en mesure d'amener une coordination efficace de l'aide du système des Nations Unies dans des cas d'urgence, mais également que nous essayons

d'assurer les liens entre la préparation aux urgences sous forme de la surveillance, de la détection précoce des situations d'urgence quand elles sont détectables, la fourniture de l'aide humanitaire comme l'aide alimentaire, et au-delà analyser quels sont les besoins en réhabilitation agricole c'est-à-dire lier dans un momentum continu la détection de l'urgence, l'action préventive, l'action d'aide humanitaire directe, la réhabilitation qui permet une reprise du développement après la catastrophe. Tous cela est en discussion et beaucoup dépendra de ce que l'Assemblée générale décidera. Nous suivons de très près ces discussions à New York. Elles ont indiscutablement pour l'avenir du système des Nations Unies une importance considérable et certainement le Conseil sera tenu au courant de ce qui a été décidé.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. Regnier et je donne la parole à M. Hjort.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I will make a specific point or two and then a more general one. I wanted to make certain that the Council understood the answer to the question raised by Morocco which was given by France. The Director Generals of the Steering Committee for the ICN have not invited any person to chair the body. There has been a letter asking about the availability of the person whose name was mentioned. The selection of the chairperson and the rest of the bureau rests, as Ms Killingsworth reported in her introduction, with the member countries themselves.

The ICN will be held in Rome. We shall follow FAO's rules of procedure. The PrepCom was held in Geneva and we were guided basically by WHO's rules of procedure. There are some differences, but I wanted to make certain that you understood that the selection of the chairperson, vice chairpersons and so forth will follow the procedures long established in FAO.

While on the subject of the ICN, there was a question from the Netherlands with respect to follow-up. Certainly the plan of action and the follow-up thereto is what the whole thing is mainly about, so considerable attention and time has been given to this. But this gives the opportunity to leave you with a thought. From several statements that were made about the pace of change and the need for reform and the UNCED discussion this morning, one has the impression that some believe that these aspects were not taking place and that they are something new or sudden, that reform will take place one day at midnight and the next day the world will be very different, or that an UNCED Conference is held one day and all of a sudden the world has changed totally. The fact is that the environmental problems which were there the day UNCED started were very similar to those that were there the day UNCED finished. So it will be with the ICN.

We have a coordinated set of activities. What happens when we engage in these discussions and debates and come to agreement on certain programmes of action? We are convincing ourselves that there are certain matters involved in socioeconomic development that have not been given sufficient attention and that they are of concern to us for survival as a planet, as human beings, and so forth. We are seeking to strengthen our efforts in certain ways, on certain points. We shall have the ICN; we shall adopt a plan of action; there will be follow-up to it. We hope that out of that the ongoing efforts which are under way by millions of people, hundreds of organizations - non-governmental, intergovernmental and otherwise - will be accelerated and more rapid progress



made toward the elimination of hunger. We shall not, however, find that hunger has been eliminated during the days that the Conference was taking place.

This brings me to another point, since I am in a somewhat philosophical mood tonight. In listening to the responses of Mr Regnier and Ms Killingsworth and to comments that were made by the Council, I believe it is fair to ask the question: is FAO leading the reform process or is it a follower? The point has been made that we had a fundamental and careful review. We have been implementing those recommendations. There has been UNCED. Think of the UNCED package that you reviewed today, that you reviewed at the last Conference. Has the UN yet moved to the point where FAO has long since been? Is there a commission on sustainable development yet? There is certainly a programme of action here on sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Changes in this Organization take place every day. The management struggles with change all the time. It is a continuous process. It is not something that comes and goes. You manage change. You try to deal with change. You react to it. We make changes when a new department of Humanitarian Affairs is created, as Mr Regnier has said. It does take some changes. We are playing a leadership role in that whole matter, too, I can assure you. It is this Organization which provides the assessment of food needs. This is the lead agency. Somebody used the terminology that we "participate in it". FAO has been, is and will be the lead agency in which WFP and other people, too, cooperate with us. We are involved. It has, as I say, taken some changes, and those are being made. Mr Regnier has gone through the changes which are consequent to the Resolution 44/211. These changes take place every day. We are sitting here struggling with how to deal with a shortfall between support-cost income and support-cost expenditure today, tonight, tomorrow. We have had to cut posts. We shall have to reduce staff further. This is one of the consequences of continual change. How many hundreds of field posts have been cancelled in the last 18 months that this process has been under way? You, member countries, are losing much of that capability because it is not being picked up by OPS, which is moving in to take over where it can. But it is not moving that aggressively.

We talked about SAPs today. What is that all about? That is a process of change. We have a set of SAPs. We are trying to restructure, to clean out the ones that are no longer relevant, which are no longer a priority, no longer at the forefront, and so on. Enough said. There are plenty of these places and instances which could be used to raise the question if this is really the lead agency on change or if it is elsewhere.

I do not know the nature of the problems about which you speak concerning the need for reform at the UN and in the programmes and funds. It may be as bad as you say. If it is, then you certainly have started in the right place, but, if you start with the worst first and end up with the ones that need attention least, it will be a long time before you have to visit us on reform matters.

As far as implications are concerned, you have talked about changes in the World Food Council. That is a matter which is pending in another body. All I will say about that is that, if this is another change which impacts upon us - there have been comments about strengthening the Committee on Food Security, there have been comments about the fact that more ministers come to FAO's conferences than to any other place that we seem to know of - one can be assured that FAO would take on those responsibilities also if we were asked to do so. It is not our decision, but we shall adjust to change.

There were several comments about Women in Development. I put this in the same category. You will recall that you endorsed a plan of action for Women in Development in this Organization some time ago - in 1989, I believe. You will be interested to know, I am sure, that this year the World Bank and the UNDP have sought out FAO and asked us to collaborate and work with them and help them to prepare a plan of action or work together in training on this matter, the point being, I think it is fair to say, that there was recognition that we are the lead agency on that matter also.

There is still a lot to do, there is a long way to go, but we will make it. I might also add in this context that part of the reason why we could be ahead of the game is because we had strong support from one of the member countries which happened to mention the importance of women in development in our early efforts in structuring the plan.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous arrivons au terme de notre débat sur ce point important et vaste. Je n'essaierai pas de faire une synthèse mais je me permettrai de vous faire part de quelques réflexions.

On parle beaucoup de réformes. Les intervenants précédents se sont référés au discours du Directeur général et je pense que le Directeur général a profondément raison lorsqu'il dit que, dans la construction du monde, on peut difficilement envisager de commencer par le toit sans avoir des fondations solides. Dans la vie des hommes et des femmes, dans la vie des familles, dans la vie des nations, des peuples, de la communauté internationale, il est nécessaire et indispensable dans un certain nombre de domaines-clé, notamment ceux de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, de la santé, de la science, de l'industrie - en fait, tout ce qui est du ressort des activités des grandes agences opérationnelles des Nations Unies - d'essayer d'avoir le maximum de cohérence et de construire la maison par la base et non pas par le sommet, en essayant de renforcer les points d'ancrage des grands domaines. C'est là la responsabilité de tous les Etats Membres de l'Organisation et de vous, membres du Conseil, que d'essayer d'arriver à la meilleure coordination possible dans les activités relatives à l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Je me rends parfaitement compte que c'est une chose difficile à aborder dans les réunions et les débats presque informels de certains groupes. On parle de la coordination entre l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et des fonds, tels que le Fonds international de développement agricole, le Programme alimentaire mondial, le Groupe consultatif de la recherche agronomique internationale, le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement et dans le secteur de l'agriculture les activités de la Banque mondiale. Pour éviter une cacophonie, il faut qu'il y ait un chef d'orchestre. Une coordination peut difficilement se réaliser sans que quelqu'un la dirige. Il faut que quelqu'un dirige les activités qui, pour le moment, relèvent parfois d'organes différents, de conseils de gouverneurs différents, de tout un fatras d'éléments décisionnels. Je ne suis pas convaincu qu'un grand conseil qui s'occuperait de tout - à la fois de la démographie, de l'agriculture, de la santé, du SIDA, du transfert des techniques, de la coopération Sud-Sud - serait un élément positif.

Je crois davantage à la possibilité de renforcer les piliers de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Or, incontestablement, notre Organisation est un pilier important de la famille des Nations Unies. Je me souviens, lors de la dernière Conférence, d'avoir modestement prononcé une petite allocution donnant un

compte rendu des activités du Conseil et émettant le vœu que cette symbiose puisse être assurée entre les organisations qui s'occupent d'agriculture à Rome. Nonobstant les efforts de certains pour dissocier parfois le Programme alimentaire mondial de la FAO, la situation s'est heureusement améliorée sensiblement, et je m'en réjouis. Je crois qu'il existe une articulation étroite entre les activités de la grande agence opérationnelle des Nations Unies et le Programme alimentaire mondial.

Nous souhaitons qu'il en soit de même à l'avenir en ce qui concerne le Fonds international de développement agricole, qui dispose des ressources nécessaires mais n'a pas les capacités techniques d'assurer le suivi des opérations qu'il mène.

De même, tous les pays, y compris les pays en développement, doivent définir et déterminer leurs priorités. Ces priorités doivent-elles être définies au sein de toute une série de conseils différents, sans chef d'orchestre et sans coordination? Je ne le crois pas.

Le vœu que j'émetts - et je crois que c'est important - c'est que, dans la réforme des Nations Unies, la construction se fasse par la base, sur des piliers solides, en renonçant à certains mythes, à certains dogmes, en donnant aux organisations le moyen de fonctionner correctement et en redéfinissant un certain nombre de programmes.

J'ai entendu ce que viennent de dire Mme Killingsworth et M. Regnier, notamment en ce qui concerne le programme des Nations Unies pour le développement. J'ai eu l'occasion, il y a de nombreuses années déjà, de suivre certains conseils d'administration du PNUD. Je crois qu'il s'est produit un certain nombre de glissements dans la tendance qu'ont certains programmes à devenir indépendants, à devenir de grands programmes. Il me semble anormal qu'un programme des Nations Unies devienne sa propre agence d'exécution. On détruira fatalement l'ensemble de la famille des Nations Unies si l'on ne renforce pas les agences opérationnelles des Nations Unies. C'est là un point essentiel. Lorsque l'on parle de la FAO, il ne s'agit pas du Secrétariat. Le Secrétariat doit être souple et s'adapter aux réalités du monde de demain, mais en définitive, c'est votre responsabilité, en tant qu'Etats Membres de la FAO.

Il me reste à vous remercier de la contribution que vous avez apportée à cet important débat. Celui-ci n'est pas clos. Il ne sera jamais clos. On peut parler à perte de vue des réformes; on est appelé constamment à s'adapter, à s'améliorer, à progresser. mais pour s'adapter, s'améliorer et progresser il faut respecter un certain nombre de principes qu'il faut clairement définir. On parle de réforme. On a examiné longuement les Textes fondamentaux et il est parfois bon, je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, de les relire. Deux ans de processus de réforme ont quand même permis de faire le point sur nos activités. Alors, donnons-nous les moyens de réaliser nos objectifs. Des erreurs seront encore commises à l'avenir mais la coordination des programmes est souhaitable.

Je vais prendre un petit exemple concret: la trypanosomiase animale en Afrique. Comment peut-on imaginer un vaste programme de lutte contre la mouche tsé-tsé si l'on ne dispose pas d'un certain nombre de points d'ancrage, d'expérience de terrain précise et concrète? C'est sur la base de cette expérience que l'on pourra construire des programmes qui nécessitent une véritable solidarité. Là encore, on parle de la souveraineté des pays. Elle est importante mais la collaboration entre les pays est également importante,

que ce soit dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud ou dans celui des relations entre le Nord et le Sud. La dimension régionale des problèmes est un aspect extrêmement important et les échanges d'expérience entre pays en développement sont importants. Cette expérience se base parfois sur un certain nombre d'erreurs mais les erreurs peuvent être utiles pour la construction progressive d'un monde meilleur dans les conditions difficiles que nous connaissons à l'heure actuelle.

Nous n'aborderons pas aujourd'hui le point 8, qui traite du Troisième rapport intérimaire sur le Programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Nous reprendrons nos travaux demain, à 9 heures 30, avec ce point de l'ordre du jour, étant entendu que la séance de demain après-midi sera prolongée, comme j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de le signaler.

La séance de cet après-midi a été plus longue que prévu mais je crois qu'elle a été extrêmement utile et votre présence nombreuse en cette heure tardive est le signe de votre appui au Secrétariat, qui en a le plus grand besoin.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.



**council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 102/PV/9

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING  
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(13 November 1992)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

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

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

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

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)
- 8. Third Progress Report on the WCARRD Programme of Action and Follow-up to the WCARRD Review
- 8. Troisième rapport intérimaire sur le Programme d'action de la CMRADR et suite à donner à l'Etude de la décennie suivant la CMRADR
- 8. Tercer informe sobre el Programa de Acción de la CMRADR y examen de las medidas complementarias a la CMRADR

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons sous les yeux le document CL 102/8, qui est un document qui date du mois d'août, et je me permets de rappeler aux honorables membres du Conseil que cette question du suivi du Programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale a fait l'objet de deux documents préparés en vue de la Conférence de 1991. Ce sont les documents: C 91/19 et 91/19 Sup.1, et dans le rapport de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO, qui s'est tenue il y a exactement un an, en novembre 1991, nous trouvons le compte rendu de l'intéressante discussion qui a eu lieu pendant la Conférence, concernant le troisième rapport intérimaire sur le Programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Ce rapport analyse les résultats de la Conférence en ses paragraphes 92 à 101.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr Chairman, distinguished Members and observers, this morning I have pleasure in introducing document CL 102/8 containing FAO's proposals for a follow-up to the recommendations of the report of the WCARRD Review entitled, United Nations' Agencies and Rural Development: A Review of the Post-WCARRD Decade and an Agenda for Future: Director-General's Views and Comments.

As the Chairman has noted, the latter documents reviewed in a general and preliminary way at the FAO Conference a year ago, and which have been made available to you, are identical to those prepared for the last conference. They contain a wide range of recommendations with a view to reorienting the focus of FAO's WCARRD follow-up activities to give greater attention to those areas considered to be of prime importance in the 1990s, as well as to improve the effectiveness and impact of these activities.

The Conference requested that the Hundred and Second Session of the Council further consider the documents, together with specific proposals for follow-up to the recommendations contained in the WCARRD Review Report. Particular attention was to be given to important aspects of a poverty alleviation strategy; i.e., people's participation, access to natural resources, credit, inputs and markets, diversification of the rural economy, promotion of rural non-farm employment, development of agro-industries, gender issues and sustainable development.

Document CL 102/8 considers follow-up activities related to these matters in paragraphs 4 through 45 and then goes on to related concerns, research and data analyses, education, training and extension, WCARRD follow-up and the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, these items being raised in the Report of the WCARRD Review.

The comments of the Director-General and of the 1991 FAO Conference were most in mind in implementing these activities which are reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. Since the preparations for that Programme of Work and Budget and the WCARRD Review took place concomitantly, FAO technical staff benefited from a process of discussion with the WCARRD Review team which enabled the Organization to get an early start in implementing the recommendations which, of course, will be continued and enhanced in future biennia.

I should like to draw to the attention of the Council the fact that many of these follow-up activities are taking place within the framework of several major ongoing programmes which involve most, if not all, of the technical divisions of FAO. However, resource constraints have slowed progress, as you will see when you review document CL 102/13 on the implementation of the approved programme budget 1992-93 and especially with respect to the section of that document on Programme 215, rural development.

The activities relating to sustainable development reflected in the document have been referenced during your discussion of previous items, especially Item 7, and also yesterday afternoon. These statements and interventions, I believe, can be taken into account in preparing the report on the discussion of these topics.

As you know, FAO attaches considerable priority to the effective and timely implementation of follow-up to UNCED. The activities concerning people's participation and gender issues are also reflected in the action plans on people's participation and women in development, which have been approved by the Conference and involve comprehensive and interdisciplinary action throughout FAO.

In closing, I wish to note the enhanced attention being given to poverty alleviation by the UN system, for example at the high level segment on ECOSOC and at the World Bank. Follow-up to the ICN will also influence the future agenda for WCARRD follow-up. The guidance of the Council on future activities in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action will be appreciated.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** In talking about this document, the delegation of Egypt would like to reiterate its agreement, which we indicated during the general Conference of the Organization in November 1991, regarding the priorities contained in the mid-term plan for the period 1992-97, in particular in the domains of the role of women in development and sustainable rural and agricultural development, and we hope that FAO will achieve success in promoting increasing people's participation in accordance with paragraphs 6 and 18.

Having reviewed paragraphs 19 to 22, which refer to access to natural resources, we agree that the main reason for the spread of poverty in the countryside is the lack of access to land, water and fisheries. Accordingly we have the agrarian reform law and the relationship between landlord and tenant, and we have developed the objectives of land reform in order to create new opportunities for work and to increase the incomes of beneficiaries. We have also had decrees for the repatriation of agricultural products in order to bring them in line with international market prices and thus bring remuneration to farmers, in addition to the provision of inputs and services.

My delegation welcomes the trend within the Organization to prepare studies for the preparation of appropriate action plans to study the socio-economic conditions of those who work in range lands and the efforts of the Organization in diversification of rural economy and development of agro-industries.

The document deals in paragraphs 34 to 39 with issues related to gender. My delegation welcomes the role of FAO in solving the problems of rural women and would like to refer to the fact that Egypt has established an administrative unit under the direct supervision of the highest echelons in the Ministry of Agriculture, which is concerned with women. There is continual cooperation between this unit and FAO. My delegation also welcomes the establishment of an operational unit for the development of the role of rural women and for the holding of meetings and seminars for the development of rural women in Africa and the Near East region to provide necessary facilities in order to run these activities.

We congratulate the Organization on its success in including sustainability in its programmes. We should like to thank the Deputy Director-General for the excellent presentation of this topic, which is of great interest to my country.

**Mrs Charlotte E. ROE (United States of America):** The document on follow-up activities to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development is brief yet covers a number of areas which are useful in the pursuit of ways to achieve sustainable rural development and the alleviation of poverty.

Multilateral assistance has been important over the past decades. Of the US\$530 billion given to development assistance by OECD countries since 1970, US\$100 billion, or about 18 percent of the total, has been channelled through the UN system. How well have we done? A great deal has been achieved through cooperative efforts, but the World Bank estimates that 1 billion people, one-fifth of the world's population, still live on less than US\$1 a day. As the world's population has relentlessly increased, we have seen the number of those locked in poverty grow. This is unacceptable. During the past decade it has been noted in this room that we have also seen underinvestment in agricultural technology and rural development that is sustainable. This also is unacceptable.

We are beginning, after decades of experience, to have some new answers. Among the lessons we have learned is that policy management is the key, focus is essential, coordination at the country level is critical and should incorporate non-governmental organizations in the broadest sense of that term and, finally, national capacity to develop policy and overall strategy must be established and reinforced or progress made will not be sustainable. The document we are considering touches on some important aspects of strengthening rural capacities, including enhancing the role and management capabilities of cooperatives, village groups and other grass-roots organizations in sustainable development, the involvement of NGOs as full partners in the planning process, the expansion of agricultural credit and access to that credit by women and other disadvantaged groups, the strengthening of marketing extension capabilities, the diversification of rural economies through non-farm employment and access to natural resources. These activities are valuable, although it would be helpful to have a sense of how they will be prioritized, particularly when carefully focused and evaluated in areas where



macro-structural reforms are being applied, and by that I refer to elements such as the increased use of water conservation methods, increased seed varieties, better cropping techniques, and so forth, which can provide keys to lasting development in rural economies.

**Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus):** The proposals for follow-up activities concerned with rural development which have been prepared by the Secretariat, as requested by the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference, are, in our opinion, well-balanced and realistic. We therefore have no difficulty in registering our full support for these proposals. However, I wish to highlight some of these proposals, while, with your permission, Mr Chairman, I will refer briefly to the involvement of my country in rural development issues.

Cyprus participated in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development organized in Rome in 1979 and in the follow-up activities derived from the Programme of Action. Reporting on the progress achieved in relation to the principles and the Programme of Action of WCARRD has been a useful experience in assessing the achievements and impact of agrarian reform and rural development policies in Cyprus. This reporting was also useful in identifying the constraints and the areas of priority for achieving the targets and objectives of WCARRD as embodied in our national development plans.

During the period that followed the 1979 Conference, Cyprus has made substantial progress in agricultural and rural development. Through prudent planning and the implementation of rural and agricultural projects, Cyprus has succeeded in improving the performance of the agricultural sector and the standard of living in rural areas. A good indication of the progress achieved is the agricultural income per person employed in agriculture. This income, measured at constant prices, has almost doubled during the last decade.

We highly appreciate the assistance received from FAO and other UN agencies in planning and policy issues, and we are ready to share the experience gained through this development process.

Turning back to the proposal for follow-up activities, I wish to draw the attention of all of us to the fact that most of these proposals are based on the FAO Programme of Work and Budget as mentioned in paragraph 2 of document CL 102/8 and, inevitably, they will be affected by the state of the financial resources of the Organizations.

Referring to the first two proposals for people's participation and access to natural resources, we support the idea expressed in the document for conducting a series of case studies, and we express our willingness to cooperate with FAO in organizing national or sub-regional meetings on related issues.

Regarding the proposal for access to inputs and services, we wish to suggest that cooperative societies at village level and/or district level might be very useful for providing agricultural inputs and credit to farmers. In Cyprus such cooperative societies have, for over 70 years, been the nucleus of economic activity in rural areas, the first cooperative society being established at the beginning of this century.

With regard to the proposal for the diversification of the rural economy, we believe that mixed farming - that is, livestock and crop production - is a good practice which contributes positively to good economic performance under rainfed conditions, namely in the sub-tropical zone. On the other hand, labour-intensive crops are most suitable in irrigated areas.

Finally, we wish to suggest that the proposals for education, training and extension should be placed among the first priorities of the proposed activities, taking into account the importance and the quick benefits resulting from such activities. The fact that FAO has a certain comparative advantage in this field will assist in materializing the aforesaid proposals at the required level and extent.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** As was pointed out, this paper explains in general terms FAO's contribution to the follow-up to WCARRD, and also contains some proposals for the future. In this respect it is very useful.

Paragraph 5 of the paper mentions the use of case studies to promote greater public awareness and emphasizes the use of the World Food Day network to disseminate the idea of participation. These proposals are particularly welcome to my delegation.

We strongly support the drawing up of guidelines for appropriate legal frameworks to provide free association of rural people in organizations of their choice, as mentioned in paragraph 8 of the paper. This is likely to have an important symbolic role: that is, it can be used as a yardstick of good practice against which other projects can be judged.

We also support the continuing monitoring and evaluation of results and progress in people's participation as part of the WCARRD reporting. It would be extremely useful if Council could be kept informed of the progress WCARRD makes along these lines.

There are many positive points in this paper. However, in our view the paper falls short of presenting a coherent picture of the situation and does not clearly identify areas of focus for the future.

There is a number of references to intensification and acceleration of certain programmes of action. There is, however, little attempt to identify those areas where funding will have to be restricted as a result of these changes in emphasis.

Furthermore, this document and document CL 102/13 on the progress report on the implementation of the approved Programme of Work and Budget, appear in part to contradict each other when discussing the prioritization of work. For example, document CL 102/8 speaks of intensifying data-handling activities via WAICENT, but, at the same time, in document CL 102/13 we read of a reduced capacity to implement GIS activities.

Therefore, it would seem that there is still some debate as to the areas in which activities will be reduced. In other papers placed before the Council the Secretariat has made it clear that it recognizes the need for prioritization and careful management of resources. However, as yet, the methodology by which this will be achieved remains unclear. This process is, unfortunately, a necessary one. FAO does not have unlimited resources and we,

as the membership, should not press the Secretariat to implement programmes for which funds cannot be found.

It is our responsibility as the Governing Council to assist the Secretariat in their efforts to prioritize. We must give them our fullest support so that they may concentrate the resources of the Organization in those areas in which FAO has a clear mandate and can out-perform other organizations and institutions: that is, in those areas where the Organization has a clear comparative advantage. This will ensure that all gain maximum benefit from the extensive experience and expertise which this Organization has at its disposal.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je ne crois pas que ce soit le rôle du Secrétariat de fixer les priorités, c'est plutôt au Conseil de tracer les grandes orientations et de définir les priorités. C'est là l'intérêt de nos débats qui doivent permettre au Secrétariat de tenir compte de l'avis des organes directeurs pour fixer les priorités, mais ce n'est pas le Secrétariat en soi qui fixe les priorités.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** That is, in fact, what I just said. I said it was the role of this Governing Body to assist the Secretariat to form priorities.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Ma déclaration rejoignait votre intervention. Votre intervention était importante sur ce point, parce que c'est au Conseil et aux organes directeurs d'aider le Secrétariat, comme vous l'avez très bien signalé.

**Elias REYES BRAVO (México):** Deseo expresar el apoyo de la delegación mexicana a lo propuesto en el documento CL 102/8 y destacar algunos aspectos del desarrollo del campo mexicano en conexión con la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Para el desarrollo rural y agropecuario de México son factores y propósitos importantes el bienestar de los productores, la competitividad, el abasto y el comercio, el desarrollo sostenible y la diversificación de actividades en el medio rural.

Justamente por esos propósitos, durante el presente año se ha dado en México un intenso trabajo para el campo en lo que respecta a cuestiones de política y legislación, cambio institucional y políticas de apoyo.

La política actual considera el papel del Estado en el campo básicamente en una perspectiva normativa, sin olvidar el compromiso social que tiene el Estado con los sectores menos favorecidos de la población.

La actuación del Estado mexicano en el campo se define por la instrumentación de políticas en cinco grandes áreas:

Estabilidad macroeconómica que favorezca la inversión y la planificación a largo plazo;

Certidumbre jurídica que proteja con más eficacia los derechos de propiedad;

- Creación de un marco regulatorio y de participación adecuada del Estado;
- Consolidación de un marco de política comercial, y
- Definición de la nueva política agropecuaria y forestal.

Asimismo consideramos que la estabilidad del marco macroeconómico es un requisito fundamental para la viabilidad del sector agropecuario y forestal.

Los procesos de cambio institucional en las áreas del marco jurídico, entorno macroeconómico y política de comercio exterior y subsidios han permitido lograr avances en el desarrollo del sector. Sin embargo, para incidir más, se cuenta con políticas específicas de apoyo en ámbitos como los siguientes:

- Acciones de combate a la pobreza.
- Conservación de recursos naturales.
- Programas de apoyo en caso de desastres naturales.
- Inversión pública en el sector, y
- Financiamiento y seguro.

Sr. Presidente, la delegación de México considera que es muy importante alentar la observancia y el seguimiento del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural; también considera que los países debemos seguir haciendo esfuerzos nacionales y de cooperación internacional para avanzar en el proceso de desarrollo rural.

**Saleh SADIQ OSMAN (Tanzania):** The Tanzanian delegation wishes to endorse document CL 102/8. This document is very comprehensive and has touched on all the important areas of agrarian reform and rural development, including very important issues, such as people's participation, sustainable forestry, rural employment, sustainable development and gender issues.

The Tanzanian delegation also endorses FAO's Seven Point Plan of Action for people's participation in rural development.

However, we wish to put more stress on a few points contained in document CL 102/8. Firstly, utilization of sustainable forestry resources must go hand in hand with the promotion of the use of efficient fuelwood and charcoal cooking stoves, so that less biomass is consumed to produce the required energy for domestic uses.

Secondly, the utilization of sustainable forestry must go hand in hand with the promotion of the use of other alternative sources of energies - for example, solar, wind, biomass, etc.

Thirdly, sustainable agricultural development must take into account the following: agriculture in developing countries is too burdensome, very unattractive, inefficient and unprofitable; hence these problems have to be equally tackled; credit packages and other services meant for rural smallholder farmers normally find their way into the urban setting where there are normally more profits realizable; because of rural poverty, there is too much labour drift of youth from rural to urban centres leaving old and less productive peasants to work on the land.

Fourthly, on gender issues, women in developing countries, particularly in Africa, engage in many activities for long hours using very inefficient technologies; and sometimes they use just their bare hands and bare feet unassisted by any technology or machinery. If we are to succeed in this endeavour, women's burden must be lessened; that is, technologies that will help women perform their activities more efficiently must be developed and made available to this burdened group.

The Tanzania delegation realizes that the basic policy decisions on WCARRD are the responsibility of member countries. In this respect Tanzania has been keen to pursue the goals of WCARRD through the promotion of grass-roots people's participation in rural development, for example, the formation of local Councils, primary producers' cooperative societies, and grass-root nongovernmental organizations for development activities.

Institutional reforms in agricultural extension services and agricultural research are all aimed at giving recipients a greater say in the kind and direction of research and extension most beneficial to them.

The establishment of a Ministry specifically responsible for community development and women and children's affairs provides a central structure for coordination of gender issues and provides policy directions for the same.

Tanzania recognizes that WCARRD activities are broad in scale and require close inter-sectoral cooperation, that is, between natural resources, agriculture and rural development agencies. This is also partly covered through the establishment of broad-based specialized agencies such as the Land Use Commission, the Commission on Environment and the Planning Commission.

We strongly believe that if we are to alleviate and eradicate rural poverty we will have no choice but seriously and exhaustively to tackle these problems. We therefore urge FAO's assistance as stipulated in document CL 102/8 to help the developing countries attain these goals.

**Kwang Hee KIM (Korea, Republic of):** Mr Chairman, before I start my statement I should like to take this opportunity of paying my respects to the Chair, since this is my first intervention at this session of the Council. I should also like to take this opportunity of renewing old acquaintances with those who have worked with me, because I used to be Country Representative to the FAO back in 1982-84.

My delegation appreciates the excellent work of the Secretariat on this important subject. The document for this Council's discussion clearly presents specific proposals for follow-up to the recommendations contained in the WCARRD review report submitted to the 26th Session of the FAO Conference, and introduces a future agenda based on the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1992-93 biennium.

We highly appreciate the efforts made and to be made by FAO for alleviating rural poverty through its Regular Programmes of Work and support to government programmes and inter-agency collaboration since the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

My delegation would like to make a few comments on some specific proposals for follow-up.

First, People's Participation: paragraphs 4 to 8 deal with people's participation in order to promote public awareness of the role of people's participation, and people's organization, and also to achieve sustainable rural development activities.

We are quite interested in the FAO's planned work to promote improved institutional arrangements for sustainable forestry use. The work of forestation in the Republic of Korea is often cited as one of the success stories in the forestry sector.

Until the early 1970s, many barren mountains could be seen. However, we can see no longer barren mountains in the country these days. Imported cheap lumber dominates the lumber and forestry product industry; therefore, the owner of forestry land is no longer interested in the management of domestic forest resources. In this connection, FAO's future work on this issue of people's participation, not only in forestry use and forestation but also in rural development, should suggest ways and means to give viable economic incentives and motives.

We also welcome FAO's plan for promoting decentralized, community-based fisheries management through policy formulation, advice to governments, and seminar and workshops for awareness generation.

In this connection, we would like to see how the recommendations at the FAO/Japan expert consultation on the development of community-based coastal fishing management in paragraph 13 is being followed up. We appreciate the information.

Secondly, Access to Natural Resources: we also highly appreciate FAO's action programme to assist the countries concerned in facilitating a better access by the majority of the rural populations to natural resources, and FAO's programme to give technical assistance to Eastern European countries which undergo privatization of land ownership.

In this connection, the information on the ongoing agrarian reform programme in some countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa, and technical assistance given to Eastern European countries will be appreciated.

Also the FAO's work for a computerized system for land registration is quite interesting and deserves our attention. We expect early publication of various subjects mentioned in paragraph 23.

Thirdly, Access to Inputs and Services: we are quite interested in the FAO-developed low-cost EDP credit package called the micro-banker system in order to overcome the high administrative cost associated with small transactions. This kind of work will certainly facilitate banking services to the rural poor. But at the later stage the economy of scale of operation should be promoted. A merging of agricultural credit bank and cooperatives in many countries, including the Republic of Korea, clearly demonstrate the importance of the economy of scale.

We also pay high attention to the improvement of agricultural marketing and marketing infrastructures which naturally induce a high marketing cost. Therefore, our attention should be paid to narrowing the price gap between what the farmer gets and what the consumer pays.

Fourthly, Diversification of the Rural Economy: we agree to the importance of diversification of the rural economy and non-farm employment in the rural poverty alleviation programme. Technical support for the farming sector, and for food processing and handling, including work on the development of marketable convenience foods using indigenous crops is an excellent area in the FAO Programme of Work in order to diversify the rural economy. The Republic of Korea puts high emphasis on this area. We would like to share our experiences and exchange information.

In the document, the matter of women's participation is touched upon under many sections: People's Participation, Access to Natural Resources, Gender Issues, Sustainable Development, etc. We remember that last February there was the Women's Summit in Geneva under the coordination of IFAD. In that meeting the rural women's situation and role were discussed and the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women was adopted. And we are informed that the follow-up activities of the Women's Summit are being implemented.

In this connection, I would like to draw the Council's attention to the close relationship and cooperation between FAO's Gender Issues and Women's Summit activities, especially with regard to Gender Issue activities in this document.

Lastly, Sustainable Development: we appreciate that FAO has made tremendous efforts and progress in integrating sustainability criteria in all its programmes and activities, and we know that FAO is expected to play a vital role in the implementation of 113 programme areas of UNCED's Agenda 21 activities.

As we have already discussed, sustainable agricultural and rural development under the agenda item the State of World Food and Agriculture, FAO activities related to Sustainable Development and Environment, the Korean delegation notes with anxiety that the recent performance of the global food and agricultural sector has been uneven, and the future prospects also remain somewhat uncertain.

In per caput terms, agricultural production declined in much of Latin America and the Near East and marginally increased in the Far East. The substantial rise in Africa's total agricultural production was almost entirely eroded by the high population growth. In the case of the Republic of Korea, our total cereal production is on the decrease, as also is utilization of farmland, while the cereal import is on the rapid increase.

If individual countries keep sustainable development without degradation of their own environment, I am of the opinion that the agricultural sector must continue to be an important source of economic growth and we must do our best so that the international economic environment can provide adequate opportunities to accelerate sustainable agricultural and rural development. In this regard, I would like to reiterate that the Uruguay Round negotiations must reflect vital interests between developing and developed countries. Especially, I am of the opinion that differences in the level of agricultural structure and development in different countries, and their non-trade concerns such as food security, regional development and environmental conservation, should be fully reflected in the negotiations.

Therefore, I sincerely hope that the "Comprehensive Tariffication" in the GATT Dunkel text will be reconsidered for the reaching of a successful agreement in the Uruguay Round negotiations and for a future contribution to world food security and environmental conservation.

At the same time, I hope that the roles and activities of FAO will be strengthened further in order to ensure and protect the welfare needs of the most destitute population groups of the world.

**HUANG YONGNING (China) (Original language Chinese):** Mr Chairman, the delegation of China has read document CL 102/8 with great care and also consulted the Progress Report on WCARRD that the Secretariat prepared for the Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference. We have noted that, thanks to the concerted efforts of FAO, other international organizations and governments of a number of countries, remarkable progress has been recorded in the area of rural development and agrarian reform. The decline in the proportion and absolute numbers of poor people is the most convincing evidence of this but nonetheless this progress is far from being satisfactory compared to the objectives we have set for ourselves and, therefore, efforts should be increased.

Having said that, Mr Chairman, allow me to make a few brief comments. Firstly, the eradication of hunger and poverty is the priority task of agrarian reform and rural development. In the world of today over 16 million people live in a state of poverty. For a long time the economic environment has been unfavourable and these people are marginalized in the progress of development. Therefore, general development of the rural economy would be impossible if hunger and poverty were not radically eradicated. In this connection the international community and the governments of the different countries should make further efforts to bring assistance to these countries so that they may have access to agricultural inputs and social elements so as to participate fully in development and be finally rid of poverty.

Secondly, education, training and extension work play an important role in improving the scientific and technical levels of the poorer strata of the population and increase their participation ability in the development process. FAO should accord sufficient importance to these points in preparing the follow-up programme for WCARRD and should undertake further activities which are truly effective.

Thirdly, our experience in China shows that it is necessary to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to development and diversification for the eradication of hunger and the promotion of general development of rural economies. It will be necessary to actively promote non-agricultural activities and, above all, agro-industries for a diversification of activities in various areas so as to accelerate development for the poorest strata and to improve their income levels.

Fourthly, we have noted that the follow-up Programme of Action is linked not only to the Regular Programme of FAO for the biennium 1992-93 but also to a number of future budgetary years and, therefore, a high level of extra-budgetary funds are required. This is why the international community and the governments of member countries should make further efforts and arrive at special arrangements for the allocation of the financial and human



resources required so as to assure the effective implementation of this programme. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Inge GERREMO (Sweden):** Mr Chairman, development efforts today focus very much on macro-economic issues. In many developing countries, discussions are geared towards implementation of necessary structural adjustment programmes.

Changing policies in many of these countries towards privatization and liberalization of the economy can be seen. The roles of governments are being reformulated.

During the years before and immediately after the WCARRD Conference, in 1979, the situation was different. Emphasis was on rural development and integration of both economic and social aspects. Development efforts were very much geared to direct poverty alleviation.

We know now that many of these efforts were planned and carried out without a sound macro-economic basis which could secure necessary growth.

Today it is quite clear that growth and equity must go together. There must be a balance between macro and micro-economic development efforts. So during a time when macro-economic issues seem to be high on the agenda, it is extremely important that the WCARRD principles are given adequate attention.

The proposals for follow-up activities presented in document CL 102/8 are therefore very valid. The Swedish delegation would like to elaborate on some of them.

People's participation or, maybe more rightly, people's own initiatives, are fundamental to all development. As can be seen from Agenda 21 of the Rio Conference, people's involvement and understanding of sustainable development is a crucial issue.

An important part of people's participation is the gender aspect and how specifically the role of women in rural development can be increased. We appreciate the mentioning yesterday by Mr Hjort that other organizations, like the World Bank, now seem to look on FAO as a lead agency when it comes to methodological work on gender issues. People's participation and gender issues are delicate issues for governments and international organizations in the sense that there are limits to what can be done from authorities working from above. When it comes to supporting governments it is more important to bear in mind that FAO and others can mainly assist in creating a suitable framework and climate for local initiatives. Such initiatives could definitely include relevant training activities as a basis for forming local organizations, cooperatives, etc.

An important way of stimulating people's participation and gender issues is through support to NGOs. Such support must, however, be carried out with some caution, not to lose the independent identities of these NGOs. We must avoid a situation where such organizations mainly become tools for and channels of government ambitions.

An important area is how to prepare people in rural areas, primarily small farmers, for a situation with an increasing private sector. Agricultural credit will definitely play a crucial role.

There should, however, be a word of caution also here, both as to what is needed in the form of capabilities from the farmers' own side as well as from the government and the private sector to provide necessary services. Otherwise credit can lead into dangerous poverty traps where farmers even might have to leave their land.

It is important to stress that there is a considerable gap between the aggregated level we are now discussing and the operative level where the WCARRD principles finally should be implemented.

Mr Chairman, the Swedish delegation would like to emphasize that FAO has an important role to play in developing such operational guidelines as well as gathering and disseminating experiences in the field.

My delegation would like to emphasize once again that many of the WCARRD principles are key ingredients in the efforts to achieve sustainable development.

It is important that FAO give high attention to these issues in its Regular Budget.

The Conference last year recognized the continuing validity of the WCARRD Programme of Action and to intensify efforts in its implementation.

Mr Chairman, the Swedish delegation would therefore like to know how the Secretariat will organize itself to be able to carry out these important tasks. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan):** Mr Chairman, we have studied the document before us, C 91/19 and also Supplement 1 of that document. My comments will be brief and concise. Firstly, WCARRD is one of the outstanding results of FAO, and nobody can overlook its sound follow-up activities during more than ten years.

Secondly, as stressed in the Plan of Action on People's Participation which was adopted at the Twenty-sixth Conference, and is published in beautiful style now, we are seeing obstacles which is a challenge to us, such as the old-fashioned consciousness and the well-established structure of authorities concerned as well as social custom. For this reason, the challenge to us requires in the long term a tough spirit.

My Government believes that it is vital that the leadership of international agencies, particularly FAO accompanied by positive attitudes on the part of member countries, will be further strengthened for this challenge.

Thirdly, let my delegation introduce, "Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter" which was released in June 1992. This Charter clearly declares Japan's official development assistance should go to the development of human resources as well as socio-economic infrastructure and also to the support for "good governance" as well as fair distribution of resources. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Nusyirwan ZEN (Indonesia):** Mr Chairman, thank you for the opportunity given to my delegation to address the proposal for follow-up of WCARRD activities as appears in document CL 102/8.

Rural development including agrarian reform has always been an integral part of the Indonesian national development. Sectoral rural development programmes have been based on a fuller understanding and participation of rural people so that development efforts can be more responsive to their varying needs. Programmes of Action in the Indonesian rural development have been clearly reflected in expansion of opportunities in employment and income, development of farmers' groups, development of rural cooperatives, greater investment to promote agricultural development, health, nutrition, and education.

Although the equity goals are clearly defined to be carried out in every development programme in Indonesia, it is the policy of the Government to give more consideration on achievements of top programme priorities such as: sustainable agriculture development leading toward strengthening of self-sufficiency in food; boosting up exports of agricultural commodities; strengthening of efforts to develop rural cooperatives in the framework in increasing people participation; programmes for diversification of rural development; transmigration programmes, especially directed toward sparsely populated areas of the country; family planning movement; creation of opportunities of employment for rural population; development entrepreneurship of economically weak groups; and improvement and conservation of natural resources and living environment in the framework of sustainable development.

In regard to rural women in development, the Government emphasizes its policy on fuller integration of women in national and rural development undertakings. Programmes to foster the role of women in development cover a wide range of activities. It has been the policy of the Government to integrate the fostering of the role of women in all agriculture and rural development projects. Developing and implementing a programme for increasing women's access to productive resources, empowerment in political and economic activities, and improving women's access to education, health services and technology information have been carried out by government agencies as well as non-government organizations. This policy and programme is in line with the Plan of Action for the integration of Women in Development. Our national experts and field officers and NGO's have been working closely with advisers provided through technical assistance by FAO. We would like to express our thanks to FAO for this assistance.

Priorities in reducing rural poverty have been based on the Government's policies to create impetus among rural people to develop themselves by utilizing their own resources and basic potential to gain self-sufficiency and self-growth. Not less that 35 programmes of action have been created by the Government and the people towards alleviating rural poverty. The Government has given priority to improvement of access to credit, production inputs and technologies for the rural population who are under the poverty line. This policy is carried out in line with policies on the greater participation of people, improved farmers' organization and cooperation, creation of rural employment through agro-industry development, and improvement of delivery systems.

Without statistical evidence on the progress made on rural development and agrarian reform, it may not be possible to predict the results achieved on the basis of active participation of rural people. Rural poverty may still exist even if the economy reaches a sufficiently high growth rate and per capita income can be increased substantially.

Out of success stories of development, however, there are still issues that need to be seriously addressed, such as policy issues on accelerated rural poverty eradication, prevention of the ever-increasing urbanization, decreased valuable agricultural land due to increasing industrialization, achieving sustainable agricultural development based on a better living environment, promotion of agro-industries in rural areas and increasing the role of rural cooperatives in rural development. The Indonesian delegation therefore wishes to express its full support for the proposal on WCARRD follow-up activities.

**Ms Maria GÁLVÖLGYI (Hungary):** My delegation thanks Dr Hjort, the Deputy Director-General, for his concise introductory statement.

It is with reference to the very last paragraph of the document on WCARRD's follow-up that the Hungarian delegation would like to start its intervention. Paragraph 59 states that most of the WCARRD recommendations are already to a large extent reflected in FAO's Work and Budget. This is an absolutely correct statement and we indeed feel that nearly all of the actions reported on have been and will be tackled by various FAO programmes.

Even making allowance for numerous overlappings between WCARRD and FAO programmes, we definitely think the review of the post-WCARRD decade is a useful and welcome document. The problems, constraints and conditions calling for the WCARRD Conference 13 years ago are still alive, one may even say are more acute than ever.

In this spirit may we be allowed to offer some comments? A careful study of relevant expertise within FAO and our personal experiences have led us to say that the closer cooperation with NGOs has achieved a greater chance of success than any WCARRD follow-up activity has. NGOs could also be major vehicles for people's participation and we would be only too happy if a major emphasis could be put on both cooperation with existing NGOs and the strengthening cooperation at national, local and regional levels. NGOs could also be instrumental in carrying out another most important part of WCARRD actions, i.e. the training component.

We feel that the training activities' role in the WCARRD follow-up deserves an even higher priority than mentioned in the document.

A significant number of the aspects pertinent to WCARRD are strongly dependent on training activities. To mention but a few, rural women programmes, improvement of financial and credit facilities, non-farm employments and so forth. The programmes mentioned, and other ones, are rather capital-intensive and well-designed; practice-oriented training programmes could achieve a much-needed breakthrough.

My delegation welcomed the reference made in paragraph 21 of the continuing support FAO offers also under the WCARRD umbrella to ongoing agrarian reform programmes and the hint to include technical assistance to some countries in the Central-Eastern European region. The Hungarian delegation made public its views on some arguments and problems in this respect when discussing the State of Food and Agriculture.

The reference to World Food Day machinery as a possible means to strengthen people's participation in WCARRD programmes has been found of great interest. Although it might be somewhat doubted that a machinery had been set up to

organize and prepare World Food Days, the idea could be a success, in so far, as World Food Days - and why not the next one - may centre on a more direct and efficient involvement of various grass-roots level organizations and ongoing programmes and on the improvement of the management capabilities of these organizations.

To sum up, the Hungarian delegation thinks of the WCARRD follow-up as a continuous effort being steadily covered by FAO's Regular Programme and other related activities, though deserving attention and systematic reporting. Guided by these principles, we would like to commend the FAO staff on the compilation of this comprehensive and valuable document.

**Iain MACGILLIVRAY (Canada):** We have reviewed in detail report CL 102/8 and paid full attention to the priority proposals for follow-up to the recommendations of the WCARRD Review Report. We wish to provide a background statement followed by brief remarks on this report.

The Canadian Delegation recognizes that development activities within the broad context of sustainable agriculture are never easy, since the process often deals with the unknown, sometimes the unpredictable. Outcomes depend on strong commitment, perseverance and fortune, both good and ill.

It is all the more difficult in the FAO context when national and regional interests diverge or even compete among both beneficiary countries and donors. Undoubtedly, work over the years by FAO and the WCARRD Programme is a significant contribution to agricultural development.

In examining and commenting on this document, Canada has been guided by its ODA charter, the umbrella statement of principles and priority which informs the allocation of public development resources between competing geographic, sectoral and institutional activities. In so doing, however, we must also recognize a public which is increasingly sceptical of its governments, the task demands which they impose, some of the aims which they pursue and the results they claim.

Having said this, it should be pointed out that Canadians as a whole remain committed to assisting others less fortunate to improve their well-being. But their general concerns with the public process together with the recent challenges and rising expectations in Eastern Europe (and beyond) mean that those of us working in Canada's traditional ODA Programmes must strive harder than ever to assure appropriate targeting on problems and best possible results from available development resources.

Therefore, a key issue for Canada is how to maximize the likelihood that these scarce ODA resources encourage development activities that contribute efficiently and demonstrably to the improved well-being of Canada's intended primary beneficiaries - the poor and the disadvantaged groups in developing countries.

We do believe Mr Chairman, that the WCARRD Programme strives to achieve these same goals. Thus, we support these efforts by FAO, fully aware of the complexity of the undertaking to achieve lasting and improved change in the livelihood of rural and urban dwellers.

Within this context, we provide the following comments on the proposals before us.

We note extremely valuable efforts which merit special attention. For example:

- Paragraph 8: action to create more favourable legal and policy conditions for people's participation;
- Paragraph 51: assistance for the integration of environmental concerns within the curricula of universities, educational institutes, extension and training programmes ;
- Page 9: FAO staff training in women in development and gender analysis; gender training in fisheries and forestry development and management.

We also firmly support FAO's work to cooperate with and strengthen NGOs. The promotion of dialogue between NGOs, governments, agencies and other bodies will prove an essential ingredient to achieving sustainable improvements in the livelihood of the rural poor.

More specifically, and without seeming to undermine the value of efforts expended, we have the following comments on WCARRD activities:

The document considers in summary form (understandably) a number of important activities within the poverty alleviation strategy. The document explains that most activities are based on the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget. Other activities are to be financed from extra-budgetary resources.

From the report, though, it is difficult to assess the balance or proportion of these two sources of funding; likewise, which activities belong to the three action areas mentioned, i.e.: FAO's own regular programme activities, support to government programmes, and inter-agency collaboration.

In essence, Mr Chairman, we believe FAO's commitment to this critical developmental effort that targets poverty alleviation could be made more clear from a strategic and programmatic standpoint. In many ways we seek programmatic clarity as raised by the delegate from Sweden.

Also it is no simple task to elucidate what balance in expenditures exists between these strategic activities or whether any balance was intended. An indication of geographic balance for these activities for each of FAO's regions would also seem important, and yet this remains unclear.

Expected results or outputs over time are also hard to assess. We welcome that in paragraph 55 mention is made to the effect that "FAO will monitor and evaluate progress achieved in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action", but no reference is made as to the necessary baseline data for such a results -oriented approach. We did welcome reviewing the generally successful results as explained in the FAO publication on lessons from the people's participation programme.

We believe these areas of balance and performance are crucial to permit decision-making and necessary understanding by this executive body. A clear definition of the level of effort in resources and staff, between regular programme and extrabudgetary sources, would allow members of this Council to assess programme commitment within FAO, and, linked to results, the

effectiveness and efficiency of resource use. As implied by the delegate of the United Kingdom, this is important from an accountability perspective but would also contribute to greater clarity on resource constraints and priority allocations. We believe this information should be made clear in future progress reports, where, in some cases, detailed tables may suffice. We must never underestimate the impact which FAO does, and can further, achieve by setting an example in all of its undertakings and quest for change.

As a last point, Canada's foreign policy objective, fully linked to Canadian ODA policy, acknowledges the importance of "good governance", which in itself calls for strengthened public participation. In this regard, we believe that FAO's participatory approaches to rural development, through the Plan of Action on people's participation, mirror Canada's interests to foster popular participation, equality of social groups and empowerment of the world's poor and disadvantaged.

**José Eduardo MENDES FERRAO (Portugal):** Le document CL 102/8 nous présente une synthèse excellente des problèmes liés à la réforme agraire sensu lato et aux programmes pour le futur.

Au Portugal, nous sommes en train d'introduire des modifications profondes de l'agriculture pour la rendre plus compétitive.

Dans cette ligne d'orientation, les agriculteurs ont reçu d'importantes subventions dont une grande partie est d'origine communautaire. Les subventions constituent un bon système selon nous pour obtenir l'adhésion des agriculteurs. Il y a également des mesures structurelles que nous devons mettre en pratique, ainsi que des changements de cultures traditionnelles qui actuellement ne sont pas compétitives au niveau du marché international, comme par exemple les céréales d'hiver.

Plus de 40 pour cent des entreprises agricoles possèdent une superficie inférieure à 5 hectares. Dans cette situation, sauf dans le cas d'une agriculture extrêmement intensive comme certaines formes d'horticulture, il est nécessaire de faire un grand effort de regroupement des parcelles et d'union des petites exploitations agricoles.

Cette tâche implique un travail parfois long et difficile de préparation et de maturation des agriculteurs, et demande d'offrir d'autres alternatives aux agriculteurs qui sont excédentaires au niveau du milieu rural.

La plupart des agriculteurs portugais sont très âgés, et cette circonstance peut faciliter à la longue le remembrement des petites exploitations, grâce à la retraite anticipée. Des mesures dans ce sens sont déjà en cours d'application.

Cependant, la délégation portugaise voudrait faire remarquer qu'une grande partie des petites exploitations agricoles fonctionne comme entreprises complémentaires de l'activité industrielle et commerciale. Elles sont vraiment la base d'une agriculture à temps partiel.

Dans ces conditions, la femme est vraiment le principal élément du contexte agricole et l'homme ne consacre à l'agriculture que le temps libre que lui laisse son activité principale, surtout dans les périodes de l'année où les jours sont plus longs.

Au Portugal, quelques organisations d'agriculteurs ont déjà pris une telle importance qu'elles sont reconnues comme partenaires sociaux du gouvernement, et certaines organisations de base écologiques, qui se préoccupent de la défense de l'environnement, ont acquis un grand prestige. Le gouvernement les écoute et entretient un dialogue avec elles.

Notre préoccupation est de préparer une nouvelle génération d'agriculteurs, ce qu'on appelle les nouveaux agriculteurs, dont une partie relèvera les exploitations agricoles qu'ils tiennent de leurs parents et pour les autres l'Etat leur facilitera l'acquisition de terrains nécessaires et du matériel pour pratiquer une agriculture basée sur de nouvelles techniques et de nouvelles cultures, mieux adaptées au commerce intérieur et international.

Parmi les jeunes agriculteurs, certains sont des femmes non mariées ou dont le mari travaille dans l'industrie ou le commerce.

Pour donner ses subventions, le gouvernement impose une formation professionnelle de base adéquate, et le document attire notre attention sur ce point au paragraphe 5.

En 1992, nous avons centré la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation sur l'alimentation correcte et la dignité des agriculteurs et des pêcheurs comme producteurs d'aliments. Cette manifestation a obtenu un grand succès avec l'appui de la communication sociale.

Depuis plusieurs années nous avons une excellente collaboration avec le Ministère de l'éducation pour une formation et une préparation adéquate des professeurs sur les problèmes de la production d'aliments, notamment en milieu rural. Nous pouvons dire qu'il n'existe pas aujourd'hui d'écoles où ces problèmes ne sont pas étudiés avec un grand intérêt. Très fréquemment le Comité National de la FAO est contacté par les étudiants qui doivent élaborer des travaux sur ce thème qui est intégré dans la formation générale des écoles.

Le Portugal a environ 27 pour cent de son territoire recouvert de forêts, malgré les incendies forestiers qui provoquent de grands dommages. Cette année, heureusement, les dégâts des incendies ont été très atténués. Quatre-vingt-dix pour cent de la forêt appartiennent à la propriété privée, divisés en parcelles généralement très petites. Dans ces conditions, la gestion, la défense et l'exploitation de la forêt sont très difficiles et très chères.

Nous sommes en train de promouvoir l'association de petits propriétaires forestiers pour arriver à une superficie minimum de 5 hectares en utilisant les subventions. Nous avons aussi un grand nombre d'associations d'agriculteurs, avec des réserves de chasse collective, pour la commercialisation des bois ou pour l'extraction de la résine du Pinus pinaster.

Une de nos préoccupations majeures est d'assurer que la population rurale reste dans son milieu. En ce sens, les industries bénéficient aujourd'hui de la part des mairies de mesures d'encouragement pour utiliser la main-d'oeuvre excédentaire. C'est ainsi que les industries de confection de vêtements utilisent une grande partie de la main-d'oeuvre féminine excédentaire. Notre préoccupation, c'est d'éviter la désertification humaine.



La valorisation des produits agricoles et leur industrialisation sont en marche non seulement pour répondre aux besoins de nos cultures industrielles typiques, comme celles de la tomate, du piment, de la vigne et de l'olive, mais aussi pour donner aux produits tels que les fruits une qualité commerciale face aux exigences du marché intérieur et international.

La délégation portugaise tient à souligner l'importance que revêtent la formation professionnelle et la vulgarisation pour la modernisation de l'agriculture, tel que relevé aux paragraphes 51 et suivants. Notre expérience montre que la vulgarisation est pratiquement inefficace si les récepteurs du message n'ont pas une bonne formation de base. Pour surpasser cette difficulté, le Gouvernement portugais a pris les mesures appropriées, notamment en fixant à neuf le nombre d'années de scolarité obligatoire. Par ailleurs, avec le vieillissement de la population, l'analphabétisme tend à disparaître.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant du Portugal de son intervention et du tableau complet qu'il nous a donné de la situation de son pays.

**Paul VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands):** Since the World Conference on Agrarian Reform And Rural Development was held in 1979, the WCARRD Programme of Action has played an important role in FAO's activities.

The third progress report of this Programme of Action was annotated for the agenda of the 26th FAO Conference last year. Considering the fact that the document became available too late for proper study of this most important item, the Netherlands delegation proposed that a preliminary discussion on the issue should take place during the Conference. A more detailed discussion could take place in this Council meeting. The Netherlands delegation appreciates the constructive attitude of the Member States and cooperation of the Secretariat in this matter and in providing us with the chance to discuss the WCARRD Progress Report here today.

The Progress Report contains many data showing the extent to which progress has been made in the socio-economic indicators used by WCARRD in 1979 on behalf of agricultural and rural development. Among these are education, training, extension, people's participation, integration of women, access to land, water and other resources. It seems that in a number of areas achievements have been unsatisfactory, in particular with regard to land reform, access to agricultural extension for smallholding farmers, including women, and people's participation. Chapter 7 of the Third Progress Report gives a summary under the title "lessons from experience".

The document "Proposals for Follow-up Activities" gives an indication of the conclusions to be made from the Third Progress Report with regard to FAO's activities. It contains proposals for follow-up activities for quite a number of areas. We wonder, however, whether the capacity will be available in FAO to implement all these proposals, particularly within the ESH Division.

This brings me to my next point. From what we have learned from the WCARRD experience, and with regard to the follow-up of WCARRD, the Netherlands delegation proposes that FAO should place the following areas of activities high on its agenda: first, to integrate the experiences with people's participation and gender issues in FAO-activities, particularly with regard

to production activities and the recognition and support of farmers organizations, as well as policy advice, through increasing awareness of the importance of participation; second, to strengthen the infrastructure in the field of education, extension and research concerning input supplies and marketing of agricultural products; third, to enhance cooperation between the various UN organizations, for instance through the ACC Task Force on Rural Development; fourth, to promote integration of technical, socio-economic and cultural dimensions of agriculture and rural development.

With regard to people's participation and gender issues, the chapter on People's Participation in the proposals for follow-up activities deserves particular attention. Socio-economic indicators have to be integrated in all technical divisions and should not be limited to forestry and fisheries only. It is essential for all technical divisions to stay in touch with the local rural population in order to learn from their experiences by the formulation of programmes and projects in the longer term.

People's participation and general issues have been so far central themes in the discussion and I should like to take the opportunity to say a few words on the Plan of Action on People's Participation in Rural Development and on the integration of women in development.

First of all, you will not be surprised to hear that we would like to reaffirm our strong interest in both these plans. However, my country would like to express its concern regarding the implementation of the Plan of Action on People's Participation. From the information provided in document CL 102/8 my delegation gets the impression that this implementation is rather slow so far. Therefore, we would urge FAO to take all necessary action to ensure rapid implementation of this important plan. In our view, this will require measures to involve all relevant departments in the process and to ensure that the technical units directly responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Plan are provided with sufficient manpower and Regular Programme resources.

I now come to my main suggestion for future work in the framework of WCARRD. The document for the WCARRD follow-up indicates, in our opinion rightly, that the different areas of activity are not, nor should be, isolated. We notice with satisfaction that FAO recognizes that it is essential for the achievement of sustainable agriculture and rural development in the framework of the follow-up of UNCED, which we discussed under Item 7, that a considerable number of WCARRD areas of activity are seen as relevant. Therefore, execution of the WCARRD programme remains important in relation to the environment. Chapter 6 of the Third Progress Report "Environment, Public Policy and Poverty" makes a beginning with this approach.

In conclusion, these developments could eventually result in the integration of a number of WCARRD activities in ICPF/SARD, a development which we would strongly support.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La delegación de Cuba ha mandado el texto de su intervención. Para agilizar el trabajo decidió que la intervención figure en las actas del día de hoy. Es una buena medida y quisiera agradecer a la delegación de Cuba por seguir este método y si hay algún otro país que quisiera hacer lo mismo, sería una buena idea.

**Carlos BASCO (Argentina):** La delegación argentina apoya los enfoques participativos desarrollados por la FAO y la difusión de ejemplos concretos de participación popular especialmente en la planificación de actividades forestales locales. Asimismo, manifiesta su acuerdo con las tareas realizadas, especialmente aquellas relacionadas con el fortalecimiento de la capacidad de gestión de las organizaciones populares; la descentralización de la adopción de decisiones y la promoción del diálogo entre los gobiernos y los organismos relacionados con el desarrollo y las organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Respecto a la problemática de las diferencias por razones de sexo, la delegación enfatiza el apoyo a las acciones realizadas y exhorta a que las mismas sean intensificadas; pero propone la sustitución de la palabra "sexo", en la versión española, por la palabra "género" tal como se utiliza en inglés "gender", en la descripción de las actividades desarrolladas por la Organización referidas al tema.

Por último, la delegación argentina aprovecha la oportunidad para recordar que las actividades realizadas por la FAO en el campo del desarrollo rural pueden perder mucha de su efectividad si no cambian las condiciones del comercio mundial de productos agropecuarios, especialmente los problemas con respecto a los subsidios y las limitaciones de acceso al mercado. Queremos recordar que los principales beneficiarios de un comercio mundial de productos agropecuarios más libres, son los agricultores de los países en desarrollo, a diferencia de los agricultores de otros países más ricos que se ven favorecidos por las transferencias internas de ingresos por parte de los consumidores.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** The proposals made in the document CL 102/8 are quite elaborate and my delegation is in agreement with the proposals made for the follow-up of WCARRD. In the proposals there are provisions for case studies and monitoring. My delegation feels that, along with monitoring, there should be impact assessment of the programme activities at regular intervals.

People's participation is the key to sustainable rural development, and the mechanism for such participation has been elaborated in paragraphs 4-18. My only comment in this regard is that, for participatory programmes to succeed fully, the literacy rate has to be increased in many developing countries. A major component of rural development programmes, should, therefore, be education in general and literacy in particular.

Access to resources is perhaps the most important hindrance to development. The traditional banking system has failed to respond to the needs of millions of small and marginal farmers. However, the failure cannot be squarely attributed to the banks. Lack of supervision and delinquency are also very important factors in this very sorry state of affairs.

Let me share with you our experience of a new banking system geared to the needs of the rural poor. In the early 1980s Professor Junus, a university professor, started the Grameen Bank Project. The Grameen or Rural Bank Project has been a tremendous success. It has been widely acclaimed in many developed and developing countries. There is no collateral for Grameen Bank credit. The prospective beneficiaries are formed into cohesive groups. Before a loan is given they are motivated. Repayment is made the responsibility of the group,

although the loan is given to individuals. So far group pressure has worked very well. Repayment is almost 100 percent.

Two other factors have also contributed to the success of this programme. These are the timeliness of the credit and very close supervision. The Grameen Bank is a bank for the poor. There is an upper ceiling of land holding in order to qualify for this loan.

Another important feature of the Grameen Bank is its programme for the skilled development of its members. Timely credit, skilled development and technical supervision are the keys to success of the Grameen Bank. Although as yet coverage is not very large, in future rural credit could be organized on the model of the Grameen Bank to make the credit more effective and efficient.

I should like to say a few words about Women in Development and some of the initiatives taken in this regard in my country. A separate ministry has been established to deal with women's affairs. In all our development programmes, women's development is an integral part. In Bangladesh the quota of government jobs reserved for women has been increased to 20 percent from a previous 10 percent. In one particular case, that of primary school teachers, the quota reserved for women is 60 percent. To give the education of girls, added impetus, girls education up to Grade VIII has been made free. A separate scholarship scheme with donor assistance has been introduced for girl students at rural schools. As a result of all these programmes, signs of improvement are already evident. At primary level the enrolment of girls has improved appreciably and if the trend continues the enrolment of girls will be equal to that of boys, or even exceed it. We now have more women in the upper echelons of administration than at any time before, and the number is increasing. Even in parliament there are 30 reserved seats for women.

**CHAIRMAN:** I have been fortunate in the past to have contact with this very interesting experience of the Grameen Bank.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** No estoy acostumbrada a hacerme esperar, señor Presidente.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Eso, señora, da más peso a su intervención.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Debo decir que he estudiado complacidamente anoche este documento presentado por la Secretaría y que es objeto de nuestra preocupación actualmente y puedo dar mi respaldo pleno a todo el documento; no porque no quisiera entrar en detalles, pero pienso que las reuniones de la FAO, del Consejo, no son solamente para aportar los conocimientos técnicos y la sabiduría que se tiene para contribuir a los programas, sino que también debe ser un momento de reflexión en relación a los problemas planteados; y esto es lo único que yo puedo hacer.

Estamos discutiendo desde hace mucho tiempo todo lo relativo a la pobreza y al hambre. Andamos buscando cuáles son las causas de la pobreza y como mitigarla. Hace muchos años que participaba en el Congreso de mi país para establecer nuestra ley de reforma agraria; entonces llegamos a la conclusión

de que fundamentalmente la justicia en cuanto a la distribución de la tierra era esencial para contribuir a acabar con la pobreza.

Sin embargo, en el seguimiento que hace la FAO de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria encuentra que todavía hay muchos pasos que dar para poder lograr el punto esencial de esta reforma que es el acceso a la tierra.

A mí se me ocurría pensar como estudiante de Historia que soy, que parece increíble que en vísperas del tercer milenio todavía estamos pensando en la reforma agraria, en la distribución de la tierra que los hermanos gratos plantearon por primera vez en Roma, en la Roma imperial y que también Juan sin tierra hace unos cuantos siglos en su famosa carta planteaba también la necesidad de dar tierra a los campesinos.

Hemos andado tres milenios y todavía sigue esto planteado, la reforma agraria, la justicia social de redistribuir la tierra y de dar a los campesinos que la trabajan un pedazo de tierra y, sin embargo, dice por aquí, creo que el Delegado de China, que hay 600 millones de personas que siguen con hambre, esperando la posibilidad de producir algo para comer. Decía el Japón que la esencial y fundamental necesidad es la autosuficiencia. Bueno, pues, yo pido excusas por decir tantas cosas de mi propia experiencia, pero les diré que no hace muchos años cuando tuve el honor de ser estudiante con Dudley Stamp, un geógrafo inglés que venía periódicamente a Harvard a dictar cursos de verano, ese señor dio el ejemplo extraordinario durante el tiempo de la guerra, no sé si ustedes lo saben, cuando Gran Bretaña estaba cercada por Hitler y por las bombas volantes primeras que cayeron en Londres, no podían recibir alimentos de su gran imperio ni podía venir la carne de Argentina, ni el trigo de la India, ni ninguna de las otras cosas que necesitaba Gran Bretaña para su subsistencia. Entonces este hombre que era profesor y geógrafo en la London School of Economics, sugirió al Rey un plan. Producto de su investigación y reconocimiento de los suelos de Gran Bretaña, de lo cual era maestro y experto, dijo al Rey: Tengo una solución para evitar que Gran Bretaña muera de hambre, la solución es ésta, que cada quien que posea tierra destine un pedacito de esa tierra, que nosotros diremos cuanto, y allí se producirán los productos esenciales y los de los cotos de caza del Rey y todos los nobles ingleses supieron que ellos se morirían de hambre si no obedecían a esta ley, porque no tenían como comer. Entonces, en toda Inglaterra, en cada uno de los jardines de las casas se destinó algo más que un metro cuadrado, yo pude verlo cuando fui a Londres la primera vez, como un metro o dos metros cuadrados para sembrar aquellas legumbres y hortalizas que destinaba este Comité de Salvación de Inglaterra que se estableció durante la guerra, y fue así, como obedientemente los ingleses y con mucha disciplina, más que la que tienen en este Consejo, sometieron a su dictamen el planteamiento de estas obligaciones y así se salvó Inglaterra del hambre.

A mí se me ocurre que en el mundo si todos los que tienen grandes extensiones, porque todavía el latifundio sigue vivo, a pesar de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, todavía tenemos latifundios en muchísimos países a pesar de que se hayan dictado leyes de reforma agraria.

Si lográramos que de alguna manera la FAO hiciera el milagro de persuadir a los poseyentes de las tierras, a los gobiernos, a establecer un programa de esta índole para dar acceso a la tierra a los campesinos que no la tienen, revivir la carta de Juan sin tierra, de nuevo y ponerla entonces a disposición de la FAO para que pueda establecer el uso, el acceso a la tierra y al agua para los campesinos que no tienen como vivir.

Queremos decir con esto, y no estoy haciendo chistes, que no vamos a resolver el problema del hambre y de la pobreza a través de las grandes empresas *que* producen alimentos, vamos a hacerlo como ha comenzado a hacerlo la FAO en Africa, procurando que cada comunidad, cada pequeño grupo humano comience bajo la dirección de esta agricultura sostenible, de este desarrollo rural sostenible a producir los alimentos con los que puedan sobrevivir, no es un alimento para participar en el mercado mundial, no es una producción para competir en el mercado, es una producción agrícola elemental de aquellos productos que pueden contribuir a su subsistencia, y yo creo que con esto, además de todos los planes que la FAO tiene en este documento que son extraordinarios y que los apoyo, con esto podríamos comenzar por lo menos a combatir el hambre y de allí del hambre podríamos llegar tal vez a la pobreza, porque si pudiéramos dar a cada una de esas familias la tercera parte de lo que tienen los portugueses que dicen que cada quien tiene cinco hectáreas, si le pudiéramos dar la tercera parte a esas familias que no la tienen y enseñarles a producir aquellos frutos que son necesarios para su subsistencia en buena parte se disminuiría el hambre y probablemente comenzaríamos a combatir la pobreza de verdad, porque cuando un hombre y una mujer, por supuesto, sienten que ellos pueden producir algo útil para ellos mismos, estimulan su deseo de desarrollar esta actividad, porque es así. Actualmente y lamentablemente es sólo el lucro el que induce a los hombres a contribuir y desarrollar sus actividades, pero nosotros deberíamos pensar que es también esta solución que perfectamente bien ha programado la FAO en su Agricultura Sostenible y en su Desarrollo Sostenible.

No quiero abundar mucho en estos cuentos que yo tengo, pero debo dar otra experiencia que viene al caso. La China, a pesar de toda la inmensidad de gente que tiene, cuando estuve allí en 1980, pudimos estudiar y ver que el Gobierno había decidido quitar los topes de las montañas, no de las más altas, pero sí de las colinas y limitar los topes de tal manera que pudieran llegar a un nivel en donde se pudiera un poco más de una hectárea y plantar allí productos. No podían ni siquiera comenzar a plantar alimentos, tenían que convertir esos suelos que estaban muy rocosos, como hicieran los holandeses con la parte que le corresponde, crear el suelo y luego sembrar, esto en busca de un poco de tierra para que pudieran los chinos tener alimentos suficientes.

Quiero decir entonces, que en muchos países en donde no hay que hacer este trabajo de los chinos ni hacer el trabajo de los holandeses, sino sencillamente redistribuir la tierra, es decir, aquellos poseedores de inmensos espacios podrían ser distribuidos y dar acceso a los campesinos que generalmente son los que no tienen tierra. Estos campesinos pobres ayudados por la FAO de acuerdo con sus técnicas y con su agricultura sostenible podrían comenzar a producir alimentos para aliviar el hambre y eventualmente para mitigar la pobreza, porque no creo que se va a erradicar la pobreza todavía en este siglo, pero sí podríamos mitigarla como muy bien usamos este término.

Estas reflexiones son las que me ha producido la lectura de este extraordinario documento por el cual yo felicito a quienes lo escribieron y a quienes están en disposición de llevarlo a cabo.

Creo que éste es el recuerdo que me llevo de esta extraordinaria reunión del Consejo que ha enfocado debidamente la forma de cómo podemos nosotros contribuir a disminuir el hambre, no la pobreza todavía, pero sí el hambre. Entonces, yo apoyo este documento, creo que las previsiones que toma la FAO en él para el seguimiento de la reforma agraria son bastante correctas y naturalmente debo también apoyar todo lo que se refiere a la incorporación de

la mujer al desarrollo. Convencida como estoy de que no podrán hacer los hombres nada solos, sino hay la parte de la mujer que es siempre en algún porcentaje mayor.

Me complace escuchar las declaraciones de Bangladesh con respecto al avance de la mujer en este país. Nosotros podemos decir, para no dejar de hablar algo de Venezuela, que en Venezuela la mujer ha andado un camino bastante adelante; sin embargo, tenemos muchas mujeres con pobreza en el campo, pero tenemos acceso a la tierra mediante una ley aunque todavía no se hace efectiva del todo. Las mujeres están participando en todas las profesiones, las maestras de escuela primaria son el 90 por ciento; en las escuelas de medicina el 69 por ciento son mujeres; las abogadas han decidido crear una asociación de abogadas para distinguirse de los abogados, porque ya son bastantes, y tenemos también muchas mujeres incorporadas al trabajo agrícola, porque tenemos agrónomas, también en ingeniería, en geología y no hay profesión a la cual esté vedada la mujer. Tenemos acceso la mujer, como todos los venezolanos a las universidades gratuitamente, porque tenemos escuelas desde la primaria hasta la universidad gratuita, y por esa razón está abierta la puerta para mucha gente.

Sin embargo, todavía tenemos analfabetismo en el país y muchos campesinos sin tierra que, ojalá, pudiéramos satisfacerlos con este Programa de la FAO.

No sigo adelante, Presidente, porque hay mucho que hablar y no me gusta hablar demasiado, pero reitero mi apoyo a estas propuestas de seguimiento que contiene el documento en especial todo lo relativo a la capacitación y a la investigación que serán las que nos dan la norma para poder hacer efectivo el cumplimiento de los programas que la FAO acertadamente ha diseñado.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchísimas gracias distinguida Embajadora de Venezuela. Debo decir que no solamente en Inglaterra, que también en otros países durante la guerra, se hicieron trabajos en los jardines, y, cuando yo era varoncito, trabajé en el jardín de mis padres de la misma manera.

**Ebrahim MAYGOLINEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** Regarding Item 8 of the Agenda, a Review of the Post-World Conference on Agrarian reform can be considered as one of the instruments for agricultural development, but within the framework of the Agrarian Reform Plan sustainable agriculture development approaches and rehabilitation of farmlands should be included, and farming activities should be socially acceptable and economically viable as well.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has in recent years reviewed the agrarian reform law which took place in the early 1960s, and adopted the new required regulations and acts for its adjustment and amendment, in order to make it more suitable and favourable to landless rural people and small farmers. Within the recent amendment of this law and its implementation, some 800 000 hectares of new lands have been distributed for landless rural people and smallholders.

With regard to paragraphs 10 and 13, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran delegation, I should like to express our willingness and support to FAO's participation. We believe that by these types of activities developing countries in particular can improve their small-scale fisheries and

fishermen's corporate activities. We also support paragraphs 51, 52 and 53 on training and workshop activities.

In the fisheries sector the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been involved in privatization of fisheries since 1989, the beginning year of its economic and social development Five-Year Plan. It has placed more emphasis on this in its second economic and social development Five-Year Plan which will begin in 1994.

Finally, training, extension and education for transfer of technology and upgrading national expertise have an important role in agricultural development, and in increasing the level of the living situations of rural people. On this aspect, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran delegation I should like to express our willingness and full support of FAO's activities.

**Nedilson R. JORGE (Brazil):** Mr Chairman, firstly, the Brazilian Delegation would like to commend FAO Secretariat and the Director-General for the excellent work done so far in this important subject and related activities.

Secondly, I take this opportunity to express the support of my country to document CL 102/8 presented to this Council. In this regard I would like to stress the special attention and support of my Government to FAO's proposed follow-up projects and activities presented in the document, particularly with respect to People's Participation, diversification of the rural economy, promotion of rural non-farm employment, development of agro-industries, women in development, sustainable agricultural and rural development with special emphasis on combatting poverty, and education training and rural extension.

All these activities are consonant with domestic efforts made by my Government and with planned rural and agricultural policies. Brazil is pleased to see that FAO is ready to continue to provide its decisive support and help to all developing countries in this subject. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Benson C. MBOGOH (Kenya):** Mr Chairman, I would begin by thanking the Secretariat for the document CL 102/8. Reading through it, it is quite obvious that there are a lot of thoughtful ideas for addressing the broad concerns of the WCARRD Report which have gone into this document.

For there to be socio-economic development, the people have to be mobilized to participate in the development process fully, and this is what WCARRD is all about. We therefore subscribe to the efforts and initiatives that eliminate or mitigate impediments to this mobilization process. I can say this with confidence, Mr Chairman, because in our post-independent era in Kenya we have fully and extensively capitalized on this approach with, I must say, phenomenal socio-economic benefit.

Permit me to highlight a few of these experiences for the purposes of illustration. People's participation in development is a policy and a process in Kenya, and it is achieved through two main approaches. The first is an informal approach whereby people are mobilized through self-help groups (locally known as Harambic groups) including women's groups. These are voluntary open groups rooted in traditional organizational principles of the indigenous Kenyan society, but adopted to serving new development and social needs.



The second is the formal approach applying decentralizing planning as a national policy and rural development strategy using the bottom-up approach to planning and decision-making, but again adopted to allow the people, through a system of formal local development committees and cooperatives, to participate in identifying what projects and programmes are to be implemented in their localities; how to raise resources for development for them; all this, of course, is done with guidance provided by the Government.

Since independence, through the informal self-help movement, large resources have been raised voluntarily by the people for community development covering agriculture, education, health and others. Over the last two decades the Kenyan people have contributed voluntarily to the tune of nearly Kenyan Sh 250 million for a wide range of self-development projects.

A strong cooperative movement has been evolved supporting small-scale farmers and low-income wage earners in providing them with access to markets and credit opportunities. Today Kenya has over 3 800 cooperatives countrywide, with a membership of over two million cooperators, men and women, and with the total turnover of over Kenyan Sh 5 million a year.

Women's participation has received special attention both at the formal and informal levels. Informally, this has been in the promotion of women in development through voluntary self-help groups which have been used as vehicles for channelling targeted assistance and other interventions designed to empower women to play a bigger role in development. Today there are over 20 000 such groups in Kenya.

At the formal level, the Kenyan Government has evolved deliberate policy measures, and continues to do so, to empower women to participate fully in the mainstream activities in development. These include expansion of opportunities in education and training for women and necessary reforms to legal and social structures that impede women's access to economic opportunity in the modern economic sector.

Mr Chairman, the purpose of my intervention is not to discuss Kenya but I have used Kenya to illustrate some points. One of these is the fact that there is obviously a diversity of social dynamics from one country to another. Measures to be taken in the implementation of WCARRD proposals therefore cannot ever be on a blanket approach but must be country-specific to be relevant and effective. For example, the creation of awareness in People's Participation in development is no longer relevant in the Kenyan situation. In other words, a logical starting point for the implementation of WCARRD would be a phase of comprehensive country studies to assess the situation and needs, and determine the specific interventions, among the many spelt out in the document, that would be most relevant and effective to the specific country's needs.

In examining the document, my delegation is particularly supportive of the measures for the diversification of the rural economy of non-farm employment and development of agro-industries.

We also wish to endorse the measures for intensifying research and the development of methodological tools for assessing and monitoring progress in changes and/or trends in rural development and rural poverty, as well as the impact of these interventions on the people targeted.

We support also the programmes for improving access to inputs and services to rural women and other disadvantaged groups, particularly the idea of banking services and credit. Kenya faces problems very similar to those cited by the distinguished Delegate of Bangladesh and would, therefore, welcome that particular proposal.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Kenya would be pleased to share her experiences with other developing countries, not as a model but as a partner, in this very important approach to development. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Ms Jindra Linda L. DEMETERIO (Philippines):** My delegation wishes to commend FAO for its continuing vigorous support to agrarian reform and development in various developing countries, including the Philippines. We support the Organization's follow-up programmes and Plan of Action in this area of activity.

As you are probably aware, Mr Chairman and fellow delegates, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP) instituted by the Government of President Corazon Aquino in 1987, and reinforced by the Ramos Administration, has the main purpose of making available public lands for agricultural production and redistributing private agricultural lands. My Government regards agricultural development as the necessary base for industrialization and in this process a successful agrarian reform programme is an essential and vital element.

My delegation is pleased to inform the Council that shortly after CARP became the centrepiece programme of the Aquino administration, the Italian Government generously provided funding support for the implementation of a FAO-assisted project extending technical support to agrarian reform and rural development. The project is a success story, Mr Chairman, and has achieved impressive results in improving the lives and livelihood of many CARP beneficiaries.

The results have so pleased the partners in the undertaking, Italy, FAO and the Philippines, that the follow-up phase is now being proposed. The extension is aimed at ensuring the sustainability and expansion of the already important results regarding farmers' organizations and the upgrading of the beneficiary farmers' skills and knowledge and inter alia dealing with a fragile environment.

The proposed project extension is in line with general programmes adopted by UN organizations, FAO's Plan of Action on People's Participation, environmental conservation and regeneration and the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development.

It goes without saying, Mr Chairman, that my Government is most happy with the project and would like to put on record our thanks and appreciation to the Government of Italy and FAO, particularly FAO-TSARRD. We look forward to even closer collaboration with, and more success in, the second phase. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, representative of the Philippines, for your intervention and a thank you to Italy for its support on this important project.

**Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRUE (Cuba):** Señor Presidente, sobre las labores de seguimiento del Plan de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, la delegación cubana elogia la labor desarrollada por la FAO en la ayuda a los países para dar cumplimiento a dicho Plan de Acción.

Agradecemos de igual forma el documento CL 102/8 presentado por la Secretaría para dar cumplimiento a los acuerdos de la 26 a Conferencia General referente al análisis del informe de los progresos realizados en la aplicación de dicho programa de acción donde están analizados los aspectos más importantes para un análisis adecuado de las estrategias de alivio a la pobreza.

En lo referente a la participación popular, la delegación cubana quería comentar de manera positiva las acciones emprendidas por la FAO y apoya los enfoques de la agricultura y el desarrollo rural sostenibles, al tiempo que recuerda la vinculación que tienen las mismas con el Programa 21 aprobado por la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo.

Nos pronunciamos porque sea una realidad el acceso a los recursos naturales debiéndose conjugar las acciones propuestas en el plan de acción de la CMRADR con lo planteado en el Programa 21 aprobado por la CNUMAD (Río, 1992) en el cual se aboga igualmente por la adopción de medidas destinadas a garantizar el acceso equitativo de la población rural, sobre todo de las mujeres a las tierras y otros recursos productivos, como condición previa para su participación en el desarrollo y como medio para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, debiéndose tener en cuenta, además, la reforma de los sistemas de propiedad, donde se considere necesario para favorecer el acceso de esos pobres a los recursos productivos.

Finalmente, la delegación cubana desea apoyar las acciones que se están desplegando por la FAO y por ésta en conjunto con los gobiernos y otras organizaciones, tanto del sistema de las Naciones Unidas como fuera del mismo, en lo cual juega un importante papel el grupo de acción del CAC sobre Desarrollo Rural, donde la FAO presta servicio de Secretaría.

Permítame hacer un paréntesis aprovechando este tema para comentar algunas novedades de la situación de Cuba relacionadas con el reto difícil de su historia y su empeño en mantener y desarrollar, con menos medios, las acciones futuras para el desarrollo.

A partir de septiembre de 1990, por razones de conocidas coyunturas internacionales, en Cuba se dispuso el comienzo del llamado período especial, proceso de reajuste ante estos acontecimientos, que exigieron la máxima racionalidad y austeridad en las políticas económicas y sociales, junto con el despliegue de numerosas iniciativas creadoras, muchas de ellas generadas por el pueblo. Muchas de las medidas que se toman condicionadas por el período especial, se insertan en las líneas estratégicas trazadas por el plan nacional de desarrollo. Así algunas de ellas han contribuido a acelerar las políticas instrumentadas en el país en defensa del Plan Alimentario Nacional y otras para enfrentar la reducción del petróleo importado. Se ha debido reducir el consumo energético con fórmulas que garantizan la equidad social y la participación popular, estableciéndose un límite máximo de consumo, con variaciones de acuerdo con el promedio de comportamiento histórico.

Se ha introducido una solución novedosa por su masividad en la transportación del pueblo y pequeñas empresas, nos referimos a la bicicleta, y otros ejemplos

que implican soluciones colectivas y ecológicamente valiosas son la intensificación del uso de la medicina verde, la creación de áreas de autoconsumo, incluso en zonas residenciales aprovechando jardines, terrazas, la utilización progresiva de la tracción animal en la agricultura, el desarrollo de la lombricultura y muchas más.

En la situación alternativa a las dificultades del período especial, existe en el país la posibilidad de utilizar uno de nuestros importantes logros: la calificación técnica y científica del pueblo. Los frutos de la inversión priorizada en la formación de recursos humanos son hoy significativos en el país. Esto se expresa en una acumulación cultural, y se traduce en resultados importantes de la investigación científica con aplicación inmediata a la producción.

Durante el período especial también se ha hecho necesario buscar soluciones alternativas en la producción agropecuaria, a partir de la notable reducción de las importaciones de fertilizantes y pesticidas químicos y de piensos para el ganado. Se han ido poniendo en práctica aceleradamente algunos resultados de las investigaciones científicas realizadas en los últimos años, de los cuales los que se destacan por su valor ecológico y su grado de generalización son el uso de biofertilizantes como el azotobácter, el ryzobium y la micorrhiza; el desarrollo de controles biológicos de plagas y enfermedades, sobre todo en los llamados Centros de Reproducción de Entomófagos y Entomopatógenos, de los cuales ha surgido en breve lapso una amplia red en el país; la búsqueda de soluciones para el alimento animal como la aplicación del sistema de pastoreo racional basado en la rotación de los pastos y su fertilización natural por el ganado vacuno, la elaboración de alimento animal a partir de la caña de azúcar o subproductos en la industria azucarera, y otras soluciones novedosas cuya aplicación en todo el país es introducida con singular rapidez, una vez comprobados su viabilidad y conveniencia.

En el caso de la industria azucarera, principal renglón industrial del país, se ha avanzado de manera notable en el tratamiento de las residuales y en su aprovechamiento no sólo en la alimentación animal, sino en otras aplicaciones tales como la obtención de nuevas fuentes de energía, el fertirriego y la fabricación de papel.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, comento que el ritmo de intensificación de estas soluciones sólo es posible por la acumulación del conocimiento. Sus convergencias responden a la sostenida estrategia de desarrollo mantenida por el Gobierno de Cuba en estos años, que ha sabido armonizar el cuidado del medio con el progreso económico y social del pueblo.

Puede este Consejo estar seguro de que la voluntad política de Cuba es mantener sus conquistas ya alcanzadas en diversos terrenos, sabemos que para ello y para responder a las soluciones diversas que nuestro pueblo se plantea cotidianamente para salir de la actual crisis, nos esperan sacrificios, austeridad, pero saldremos adelante por la decisión de compromiso manifestada en diversas ocasiones por la mayoría de los ciudadanos de nuestro país.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa

**LE PRESIDENT:** J'arrive au terme de la liste des orateurs membres du Conseil. Avant de passer la parole aux observateurs je voudrais savoir si un membre du Conseil demande la parole?

La liste des membres du Conseil est close.

Je passe donc la parole aux observateurs. La première inscrite est la représentante de la Fédération internationale des producteurs agricoles.

**Mrs G. PELÀ (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers):** FAO is in a unique position to prepare comprehensive reports such as the one on the follow-up to WCARRD, which should, however, include the latest updated information and data. We regret that the material that IFAP and other international NGOs were invited to provide for the section on People's Participation through Rural Organizations, has not been utilized in the short progress report.

In document CL 102/8, we note with appreciation the focus on follow-up activities. We do appreciate the emphasis put on people's participation and the links established between people's participation and other programmes, such as the International Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, as stated in paragraph 45.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO for the printed version of the Plan of Action on People's Participation which has been distributed at this Council Session. We have made good use of the one on Women in Development and will certainly fully utilize this publication.

We also note the reference to COPAC in paragraph 18. This Joint Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives was established in the early 70s and includes in its unique structure both UN agencies and international NGOs. FAO and IFAP are both funding members of COPAC. We would certainly be happy to see the activities of this Committee further strengthened, also in compliance with ECOSOC Resolution of July 1992 on The Role of Cooperatives in the Light of New Economic and Social Trends.

Positive developments in recent international events have been most encouraging. I would like to mention the good collaboration established between FAO and IFAP, and through it with farmers' representatives, during the whole process leading up to the Earth Summit in Rio, and we do hope to continue cooperation in this area. At the PrepCom of the International Conference on Nutrition in Geneva last August, NGOs were allowed to work alongside government delegations and their constructive contribution was much appreciated and largely reflected in the revised Declaration and Plan of Action.

On the other hand, we have a number of concerns with regard to the implementation of the Plan of Action on People's Participation. We are concerned about the adequacy of human and financial resources invested in key FAO services, such as those in the Human Resources Division, which has the overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Plan and for periodic reporting.

The technical units directly concerned with the rural people's organizations and advancement of women could certainly require resources adequate to their demanding tasks.

"People's Participation" is often seen as a large number of disorganized people and organizations. An effort should be made to move away from this vague terminology and concentrate on farmers' organizations in all their forms, with their farmers' unions, cooperatives and chambers of agriculture. This would be a means to obtain organized agriculture. Organized agriculture will not only favour the farming community but would also be of help to the government and of benefit to society at large.

When farmers are organized, their views are better expressed, their needs known, and healthier agriculture is developed. Once organized, farmers will also be better able to benefit from services provided by national and international institutions.

In the absence of farmers' organizations, even technical competence becomes irrelevant. This fact appeared clearly in a regional Consultation between African farmers and researchers, which was organized by IFAP in Ibadan, Nigeria, last November. The adoption of sustainable farming practices cannot be imposed from above. Farmers listen to, and have more confidence in their own organizations and networks, more than in any other source of information.

Farmers' organizations should be consulted in field projects, especially those which require a group formation component. Whenever possible, this activity should be undertaken by the existing farmers' organizations - thus also strengthening the organization itself.

As the lead agency for agricultural and rural development, FAO should have a strong interest in organized agriculture and hence in farmers' organizations, because otherwise most of its work would be useless. The move toward greater democracy and the privatization process taking place in many countries offers a further opportunity to promote democratic farmers' organizations.

Through its network of 82 national representatives farmers' organizations around the world, half of which are in developing countries, IFAP is active in many of the areas covered by WCARRD and has accumulated a lot of methodological experience in promoting and strengthening farmers' organizations. IFAP is therefore in a position to assist in overcoming some of the constraints related to farmers' participation.

IFAP fully appreciates the good and longstanding relationship with FAO at policy level, and in addition would welcome FAO as a major partner in its development programmes which are aimed at assisting farmers' organizations to serve and represent their members more effectively at all levels with a special emphasis on small farmers and women producers.

**Giuliano VECCHI (Observateur de l'Alliance coopérative internationale):**

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la parole au nom de l'Alliance coopérative internationale sur un thème aussi important que celui qui est soumis à notre examen. Bien du temps a passé depuis la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural qui a été le point de repère de la politique mondiale de coopération au développement.

Nous jugeons fort intéressante la mise à jour des orientations de la CMRADR sur les mesures concernant la protection de l'environnement et du développement viable liées à la participation populaire.

Il faut admettre que cet élément avait été considéré comme fondamental dans la déclaration finale de la Conférence.

Toutefois, le chemin parcouru jusque-là est insuffisant et il faut dire que le document proposé sur le thème de la participation populaire diffère les actions dans ce domaine à une date indéterminée. Les propositions sur les paragraphes 46 et suivants nous semblent également insuffisantes, surtout en ce qui concerne les organisations rurales. Cela, malgré les grands changements qui se sont produits dans le monde et qui requièrent une étroite intégration entre démocratie et développement, et malgré la récente approbation par la FAO des plans d'action pour l'intégration des femmes et la participation populaire dans le développement rural.

En particulier, le Plan d'action de participation populaire attribuait à la Division de la FAO pour la réforme agraire et les ressources humaines la mise en oeuvre du Plan lui-même. Cependant toute référence à l'état d'activité ainsi que son renforcement a disparu du document.

Nous croyons que le moment est venu d'avoir des explications sur un problème préliminaire.

Par développement participatif, nous entendons la promotion et le renforcement des organisations démocratiques et volontaires - qui représentent les opérateurs du milieu rural -, caractérisé par une réelle participation des membres qui sont à même de gérer la transformation rurale, compte tenu de la protection de l'environnement et du développement.

Ces associations non gouvernementales sont les syndicats, les coopératives, les organisations d'agriculteurs, les associations informelles d'agriculteurs et d'agricultrices ainsi que leurs organisations locales, régionales, nationales et internationales. Elles ne peuvent pas être confondues avec des agences de promotion ou d'assistance au développement rural pour lesquelles la population n'est qu'un instrument et non pas un sujet directement impliqué dans le processus de transformation. Nous ne voulons pas méconnaître le rôle de ces organismes pour lesquels le bureau pour la campagne contre la faim et le développement de la FAO est particulièrement engagé, mais c'est toute autre chose que les formes de participation au développement.

Il faut être clair à cet égard.

Le Bureau pour la campagne contre la faim de la FAO s'est intégré au Bureau des relations externes. Nous voudrions comprendre quel est le sens de cette intégration par rapport au Bureau de la réforme agraire et des ressources humaines qui est en contact direct avec les coopératives, les syndicats, les organisations d'agriculteurs.

En juin dernier, le Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies a approuvé une résolution concernant le rôle des coopératives et de l'ACI en matière de développement viable. Quelle suite a donné cette résolution à la FAO? Les manifestations sont encore faibles bien que certaines initiatives de collaboration aient été entamées.

Nous estimons nécessaire d'accélérer les initiatives visant à établir des contacts périodiques entre la FAO et les grandes organisations internationales rurales, leurs bureaux régionaux et locaux afin d'échanger des expériences d'activité et de promouvoir un dialogue actif et croissant entre les organisations rurales libres et indépendantes et les gouvernements, tant au niveau national que régional.

L'ACI est très heureuse de concourir à ce dialogue pour favoriser l'intégration entre démocratie et développement, qui représente la condition essentielle pour un développement durable.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** First of all, again I want to express appreciation to the members of the Council for their counsel, guidance and encouragement on the work being undertaken in the WCARRD follow-up.

Turning to some specific points that were raised, there was considerable discussion on training. At the outset, I would agree with what I believe was the general view, that training can be a very cost-effective way of facilitating the objectives of the work underlying this very broad programme. We could not agree more and it is a very high priority.

Specific reference was made to my comment of yesterday about Women in Development and collaborative activities with the World Bank and the UNDP. That collaborative effort is, in fact, a training activity. If you combine the forces of these three and utilize the full network, you should be able to multiply the impact and move forward with the training programme at a much faster pace than any one of us alone can do.

There was a comment about FAO staff training for Women in Development. I am pleased to report that, following the implementation of the Plan of Action, we concentrated first on the training of staff. About eighty percent of the professional staff at this point have gone through Women in Development training. The remainder will be picked up in an orderly process.

Our attention now can turn more to this broader activity in working with the World Bank and the UNDP in the training of trainers. In this way we are leveraging the experience in the work that we have done with our professional staff.

There have been several comments about implementation in general - which I will come back to - but specifically now about the implementation of the Plan of Action on People's Participation. The fact of the matter is that we share your disappointment at the pace of implementation. We have been able to make some progress. We are not sitting quietly. But we are hampered by a lack of resources, and in that particular unit and in the division to which several people have referred, the Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform Division, we have a number of posts which have had to be left vacant because of our overall financial situation. While we have tried to protect priority activities, there are, unfortunately, frequently cases where a vacancy arises in a priority area and you just cannot do anything about it except try to minimize the loss. I simply say that a considerable amount of work has been undertaken. I can assure you that the limited staff available to implement the Plan of Action are working on a full-time basis. I can give you some statistics. They have backstopped 30 field projects on people's participation; they have been involved in meetings in six different countries and in missions



to eight countries for promoting people's participation; 14 documents have been prepared on people's participation issues; nine country case studies on cooperative development have been organized; workshops on people's participation have been organized in five countries. You can see that there have been some matters under way - an important preliminary - but I share with you the concern about the pace of implementation and wish it were more rapid.

In this connection, late in the debate a concern was expressed that some information which had been handed over by IFAP was not utilized in the review document. I am told that that was in fact the situation and that the explanation of how it arose was in connection with the decision to put the Progress Report and the Plan of Action on People's Participation as a separate item for adoption of the Plan of Action by the Conference, which ended up cutting back on the information in the Progress Report. It is one of those things that is unfortunate. Nevertheless we appreciate having received the information, and it is registered with our staff.

I might just make a comment that, while I was referring to an international NGO, now more generally about FAO's work with NGOs, I think it is frequently forgotten that the agricultural production process is almost entirely in the hands of private agents and therefore this Organization certainly has longer experience than almost anyone else in working with non-governmental people. In the WCARRD programme it is absolutely essential to have the collaboration and support of the non-governmental community. They are the ones who are implementing national socio-economic development plans and programmes.

There were some specific questions from Canada, which in a way surprised me, since I believe Canada is on the Programme Committee. There was a specific question about the extra-budgetary resources associated with these various programmes and activities. I would refer, for example, to page 138 of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 where you will see for the rural development programme the resources from the regular programme budget and an estimate of the extra-budgetary resources, and you will, of course, see these figures for any other programme in the document. One could note that for rural development - these are unadjusted for cost increase figures - but the 1992-93 regular programme budget for the rural development programme there was US\$34.5 million while the extra-budgetary resources were US\$118.5 million.

That leads me to make one more point in this respect: the rural development programme is certainly one of our most active field programmes, and there is obviously a large action by the division which is the focal point for this work; you will note that the regular programme resources are well below the extra-budgetary resources for this work.

There was also a statement about their desire to see the regional allocation. Here let me point out that, taking rural development as an example again, you will find in Annex I of the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 regional estimates by programme, and so you will see not only the regular programme resources but the extra-budgetary resources for Africa, for Asia and the Pacific, and so on. This type of information is available and I hope it will help in regard to those concerns.

There were comments and questions about agricultural credit. There was a caution that one could get into a situation where they would even lose their resources. It is the policy of this Organization not to be in favour of

interest subsidies on agricultural credit but to be in favour of subsidies from the key part of the problem, which is transaction costs. If you are going to service small farmers, the poorer farmers, the transaction costs are much more important and a bigger factor than the interest rate itself, it turns out, and so that is where the attention needs to be given. If one is going to provide credit for the small producers, one has, I believe, to provide subsidies of one kind or another on the transaction costs.

Related to credit there was also reference to the Microbanker Programme, and we need to be reminded, as we were, of the Grameen Bank experience. We also had a reminder that, in all of this, farm prices and incomes, international trade prices and earnings, are also important. One might even go so far as to say that they are extremely important and perhaps the key to the whole process of rural development. If we treat our farmers badly, and therefore our rural areas badly, we cannot be surprised if we see slow progress in rural development.

There were a good number of comments about land reform. We have taken those into account. I am sure the Council understands that in recent years - or even in recent months - there has been a surge of interest and activity in this general area of agrarian reform, which has been mentioned by several delegates. We are being hard pressed to respond to the requests of member countries for assistance, including requests from some of the Eastern European countries where they are trying to get under way land titling, land redistribution programmes and move forward as best they can. This is a growth area within this overall general area which we are speaking about.

There were also comments about coordination, cooperation, priority-setting, how one would implement these matters, and so on. I think it is well to recall that the scope of the WCARRD programme is indeed very broad. Certainly the scope of the programme goes beyond the mandate of the Organization. That is part of the reason why to encourage cooperation - some would probably call it coordination - there is the ACC Task Force on Rural Development. This Organization has provided recently, and continues to provide today, the chairmanship for that body. It brings together all the members of the UN system which are involved in any way in rural development matters, or, basically, the follow-up to WCARRD. It is alive and well. I might report to you that Mr Dutia, the former Assistant Director-General for the Economic and Social Policy Department, agreed to be re-elected chairman of that body and thus serves as its Chairman. We are grateful for that because of his long experience and knowledge in this area. This is just part of the coordination, cooperation or collaboration for this massive kind of programme.

We talked yesterday about Special Action Programmes, and you will recall from reading that document that we are at the present time trying to get to grips with how best to package these activities and that at the present time the thought was maybe to make a Special Action Programme called Human Resources Development which would pick up people's participation, women in development, and some of the other activities. It is a live matter but it is part of the internal FAO coordinating task of this programme.

In addition to the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, and the internal Special Action Programmes, there are formal arrangements and informal arrangements with other organizations. I will not go through all of them, but I will share with you that Mr Maalouf and his people have been doing some very good work in collaboration with the World Bank on certain matters, in Africa in particular. We continue to have quite a bit of interaction. We have mentioned the women-in-development training of trainers.

Also, with IFAD, we are preparing about 50 percent of their projects, and many of those are in the area we are talking about here. We have formal and informal links with all of the regional development banks, with the exception of the Inter American Development Bank, and we continue to be working on that one. We of course have formal links with WHO and so on. These are all part of this process of bringing things together. You ask about the country level. Maybe one should take a page from the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, and maybe, if one is truly going to see it operate smoothly, one should recognize that the lead agency for these matters is FAO and let it be the Chairman of the body of interest in working, in response to member countries' requests, for help in the matters before us here. You know at the present time that this task is assigned to a financing agency, not to a technical body.

Priority setting: the point has been made that we seek your views and we rely upon the views of the Council and all of the other committees and bodies, in coming to grips with the question of priorities. They get you a stamp of approval and are put into the Programme of Work and Budget and are implemented. It is a continuously changing matter. These are perhaps more general areas of priority. On a day-to-day basis, in a programme like this, where there are nearly four times as many extra-budgetary resources as Regular Programme resources, the day-to-day priority setting takes place at the requests that come from the member countries. The most pressing problems that they are facing are what they ask for as assistance from FAO. That, in effect, is real day-to-day priority setting and we can try to be as responsive as we can. We are unable to provide all of the assistance that is requested, but we try.

It is this interaction - and I guess the final point to make on priority setting is the one that has already been made at different times - between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme, the Field Programme feeding the Regular Programme, the Regular Programme feeding the Field Programme, and it is that synergism which makes it a viable programme. I only wish we had additional resources to move forward more quickly and aggressively to help member countries accomplish the goals that are underlying this very large programme of work.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Au terme de cette matinée, je ne vais pas faire une synthèse d'autant que M. Hjort a présenté un état complet de la question. J'émettrai simplement un vœu, concernant cette collaboration souhaitée avec la Banque interaméricaine et qui est en cours de négociation depuis très longtemps. En effet, l'influence de certains membres du Conseil pourrait être fort utile pour faire démarrer une collaboration étroite entre la Banque interaméricaine de développement et la FAO. Je pense également que l'appui moral de certaines

délégations importantes au sein de ce Conseil permettrait de conclure dans un avenir proche un accord attendu depuis longtemps.

Il me reste à remercier tous les membres du Conseil et les observateurs de leurs interventions particulièrement intéressantes et qui collent de si près à la vie de l'Organisation.

Je voudrais vous soumettre maintenant mes intentions quant à la suite de nos activités.

Le Président du Comité de rédaction m'a demandé d'annoncer que ce Comité se réunira ce soir, immédiatement après la séance plénière. Il est évidemment difficile de prévoir l'heure de clôture de notre session. Vous vous souvenez sans doute que lundi matin, à la demande de plusieurs délégations, il avait été décidé que la séance de cet après-midi serait prolongée et ce, en raison de la réunion de Tokyo et de la nécessité, pour un certain nombre de spécialistes dans le domaine forestier, de devoir nous quitter demain ou dimanche pour rejoindre la réunion de l'ITTO.

Je proposerai, en début de séance, cet après-midi d'aborder le point 14 qui ne nécessite pas de décision, sinon le souhait de voir les obligations de tous remplies. Nous passerons immédiatement après au point 12 et au point 13. Le point 12 sera examiné en présence du Président du Programme et le point 13 en présence du Président du Comité financier.

En ce qui concerne le point 12 nous ferons une distinction nette entre les matières qui ont été examinées par le Comité du Programme et une matière plus spécifique: les résultats des travaux à propos du Plan d'action forestier tropical, de façon à sérier les problèmes de façon claire et systématique.

**Gerald J. MONROE (United States of America):** I really do think at this stage in our day's work that we would be best advised to postpone discussion of Item 14 until Monday, when we will be discussing the Organizations's financial matters. I think it is highly unrealistic to expect us to be able to get through our work this afternoon, given the importance so many delegations attach to forestry issues. We do have these people here now at some great expense, and I think it behoves the Council to give them every opportunity to do their work. I also think it behoves the Council to let those who wish to make interventions on the question of contributions, also to do so.

Therefore I think it is perfectly logical at this juncture to postpone Item 14.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I was going to make a very similar suggestion to that of my colleague from the United States. It also strikes me that perhaps we could take discussion on Item 14 with the Report of the Finance Committee. Otherwise I would go along with my American Colleague to postpone it until Monday. I think it is important that we do give the forestry item enough of an airing.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for supporting the proposal of the United States of America.

**D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands) :** It occurs to me also that the forestry issue has to be dealt with in a proper manner, which would not allow us enough time if we had to deal with it at the end of this afternoon or even this evening, and after which the drafting committee has to meet. I can live very well with one of the proposals made by the United States or the United Kingdom.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Yo simplemente quería apoyar la posición de Estados Unidos porque me parece que en realidad no vamos a tener mucho tiempo para agotar el tema satisfactoriamente en esta tarde.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vais vous faire une proposition qui est d'examiner le point 12 de notre ordre du jour cet après-midi dans son entier mais de voir le point 14.1 avant le point 13 car il y a un lien étroit entre le point 14.1 "Etat des contributions" et les rapports au Comité financier. Il est clair que si l'on discute du rapport du Comité financier sans faire le point de la situation financière telle qu'elle se présente aujourd'hui, nous risquons d'avoir un débat quelque peu confus. Je vous proposerai donc, si les honorables représentants du Royaume-Uni, des Etats-Unis, du Venezuela et des Pays-Bas sont d'accord, d'examiner le point 12 en séparant le domaine des forêts, puis d'examiner peut-être en fin de session, si nous terminons rapidement le point 12, le point 13 puis le point 11 - mais de toute façon ce sera lundi matin. Toutefois j'insiste pour que nous examinions le point 14.1 avec le point 13, de façon à éviter les redondances.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Monsieur le Président il y a une logique dans tout ce qui vient d'être dit aussi bien par vous-même que par les délégués qui m'ont précédé.

Pour ma part, je suggérerais qu'on laisse le point 12 pour la fin de la séance cet après-midi parce que, comme vous l'aviez prévu vous-même, les discussions risquent d'être longues et une séance de nuit sera nécessaire. Or, il y a tout de même des faits nouveaux qui sont intervenus et qui vont nous faciliter la tâche. Je pense donc qu'il vaut mieux considérer la situation financière en début d'après-midi avec les rapports du Comité financier et passer ensuite à la question des rapports du Comité du Programme y compris la question du PAFT.

**LE PRESIDENT:** J'avoue que je suis très peu enthousiaste pour la suggestion qui a été faite pour la bonne raison que, dans le domaine du Comité financier, on touche à de nombreux aspects y compris des plans d'incitation, y compris la gestion de la trésorerie... c'est un domaine extrêmement vaste. Votre Président s'est donc permis de prendre l'engagement d'aborder les différents points du Comité du Programme et plus spécifiquement l'aspect forestier dès vendredi. Je ne voudrais pas que l'on arrive à des heures très avancées de la nuit, on avait parlé de 2 heures ou 3 heures du matin, je ne crois pas que ce

soit une bonne méthode de travail. Je propose donc que l'on voie l'ensemble des rapports du Comité du Programme, le Plan d'action forestier tropical, puis nous ferons le point de la situation à ce moment-là, si vous êtes d'accord.

Etes-vous d'accord avec cette proposition?

Je constate que cette proposition recueille l'accord de notre assemblée.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.



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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 102/PV/10

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102º período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA  
(13 November 1992)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30

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

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas

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

- IV. PROGRAMME. BUDGETARY. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME. LE BUDGET. LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS.FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS
- 12. Reports of the Sixty-fourth and Sixty-fifth Sessions of the Programme Committee
- 12. Rapports des soixante-quatrième et soixante-cinquième sessions du Comité du Programme
- 12. Informes de los periodos de sesiones 64° y 65° del Comité del Programa

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare ouverte notre dixième séance.

Nous allons, suivant la décision prise par le Conseil ce matin, aborder immédiatement le point 12. Ce point se réfère au rapport des soixante-quatrième et soixante-cinquième sessions du Comité du Programme. Je vous donne la référence des différents documents qui vont être examinés: le CL 102/4, en ce qui concerne la partie Comité du Programme, dont le rapport de la soixante-quatrième session. Le second document est le CL 102/17 qui est le rapport de la soixante-cinquième session du Comité du Programme et également de la session conjointe des deux comités. Nous avons le CL 102/21 qui concerne la création d'un groupe consultatif sur le PAFT. Nous avons le CL 102/21 supplément 1 qui concerne les observations de la Banque mondiale et du PNUD.

Je proposerai, pour faciliter nos travaux, et conformément aux engagements qui ont été pris, de commencer une discussion sur tous les aspects des activités du Comité du Programme, à l'exception de la partie concernant le Plan d'action forestier tropical. Nous allons examiner de manière exhaustive les différents points qui seront présentés par le Président du Comité du Programme, dont je salue la présence et que je remercie tout particulièrement d'avoir bien voulu être des nôtres cet après-midi. Quand nous aurons clôturé ce point, nous passerons au Plan d'action forestier tropical, et je voudrais, en début de la discussion de ce point, vous faire une proposition pour nous permettre de conclure assez rapidement, étant entendu qu'il est loisible à tous les membres du Conseil ou aux observateurs de faire tous les commentaires et observations qu'ils estimeront devoir faire.

Pour faciliter nos travaux, je demanderai aux membres du Conseil et aux observateurs de ne pas intervenir maintenant sur le Plan d'action forestier tropical.

Est-ce qu'il y a des objections sur cette méthodologie?...

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** Mr Chairman, in view of your ruling I can be brief, because you have divided the presentation we have to make into two parts.



The Programme Committee had considered the two major items in the two sessions we had in May and in September 1992. One was a review of the programmes, and the other one was particularly the TFAP, to which we come later.

The review of FAO programmes which took the largest share of our time and deliberations followed the sequence approved by the Council. The Committee examined Major Programme 2.1: Agriculture, covering natural resources, crops, livestock, research and technology development and rural development.

At its 64th session in May 1992 and in the September session we examined Major Programme 5.1: Information and Documentation, and Chapter I, General Policy and Direction, at its 65th session.

The Committee based its discussion on the main programme-planning documents of the Organization, which are the Medium-Term Plan 1992-97, the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 and the Reviews of the Regular and Field Programmes 1990-91, and on oral presentations by the programme managers concerned. It focused its attention on major recent developments and noted particularly the importance attached to environment and to sustainable development issues in the work of the Organization.

I am happy to report to you that the Committee was satisfied with the general orientation, content and structure of these programmes, which it found fully in line with FAO's medium-term objectives as approved by the FAO Conference.

It would certainly take too long here to go into details of our reactions to and observations on each of the individual programmes and sub-programmes which are being addressed in the document. Yet as we give considerable importance to these programme reviews I wish to draw to your special attention, as members of the Council, the details contained in the two documents. Our observations result from a process of interaction between members, between the Committee and the Secretariat, in the course of the reviews which enable us to pursue in some depth the medium-term trends and programme priorities.

We are thus given the opportunity to explore programme justifications, objectives, relative priorities and the realities of programme implementation. Our reactions are intended to serve two clear purposes: first, to provide our advice to the Council, and secondly, to recommend to the Secretariat the directions we favour for the future programme of work in the next Medium-Term Plan.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Je remercie le Dr Bommer de son exposé.

Ainsi que vous pouvez le voir en page 5 du document contenant les rapports du Comité du Programme, les différentes questions qui ont été examinées au Comité vous sont soumises pour information. Il n'y a pas de points particuliers sur lesquels le Conseil serait amené à devoir décider. En effet, dans sa première session de mai 1992, votre Comité du Programme a examiné, comme vient de le signaler le Président, le Grand Programme Agriculture se subdivisant en ressources naturelles, cultures, élevage, développement de la recherche et de la technologie, développement rural. Dans sa seconde session du mois de septembre ont été examinés le Grand Programme Formation et Documentation, le Grand Programme Organe Directeur, le Grand Programme Politique, Direction et Planification, le Grand Programme Affaires Juridiques et le Grand Programme Liaison et Utilisation des consultants.

Vous avez eu l'occasion d'étudier les excellents rapports qui ont été faits par le Comité du Programme. Je demanderai aux membres du Conseil de nous faire parvenir leurs avis et considérations.

Je vous demande de bien vouloir vous inscrire sur ce rapport, en rappelant que la question du Plan d'action forestier tropical sera examinée à part.

**HUANG YONGNING (China)** (Original language Chinese): We would like to thank the Secretariat and Dr Bommer for his excellent introduction. As regards the implementation of programmes, of course, we know there have been financial difficulties and that FAO has had to take certain measures to preserve the major programmes and set aside some others. They have concentrated on the promotion of women and other priority areas. In particular, of course, they have concentrated on the environment and sustainable development. These are major priorities and all this has been integrated in natural resources.

The Chinese delegation is in agreement with the measures which have been taken to prioritize certain programmes than others and we notice, of course, that FAO has nevertheless carried on with providing assistance to Member Nations, in particular, Programme 2.1.1, Natural Resources, and this has been extremely helpful.

The Programme of Crops has also been given quite a lot of priority and we think this is correct. The Programme of Rural Development is another major priority which has been stressed and we are glad that this is the case.

We are concerned now about the continuing financial difficulties of FAO because this means some programmes have been given help and priority but others, which are important from the technical and economic point of view, have had to be curtailed or postponed, and this is obviously something to the detriment of Member States, in particular, developing Member States. We hope that Resolution 89/91 of the General Conference means that TCP will be restored to a proportion of 14 percent of the total resources of the Regular Programme because it is highly necessary. Thank you very much.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus)**: Mr Chairman, as we have the pleasure to welcome Dr Bommer, a guest in our midst, this time as Chairman of the Programme Committee, I would first like to express my delegation's congratulations on his first appearance before the Council as Chairman of the Programme Committee. While the greater part of the two reports of the Programme Committee are submitted mainly for information, since they deal with the periodic review of the programmes, we would like to express our satisfaction at the thorough manner in which the Programme Committee undertakes this task.

What is obvious throughout this document are the negative consequences to the work of the Organization caused by the resource shortfalls which necessitated the curtailment of accrued programmes. It is with regret that we note once again that the implementation of the accrued programme is dampened by the lack of required resources.

With reference to the Major Programme 2.1 on agriculture, Mr Chairman, we wish to state our support for the continuation of FAO's efforts to secure extra-budgetary resources which will enable the Organization to maintain quality and expand its activities in this field. In particular, we believe that emphasis

should be placed in the programmes on the promotion of integrated pest management and plant genetic resources, and we welcome the efforts to develop the global information system on plant genetic resources.

Under the same programme, Mr Chairman, all efforts for the prevention of food losses must be intensified as such prevention will have immediate impact on food availability in many countries.

With regard to the Programme on Livestock, I wish to welcome the eradication of screwworm from Libya, a disease which at one stage threatened all countries of North Africa and the Near East. The successful completion of the eradication campaign is a good example of what international cooperation can achieve.

We are in agreement with the Programme Committee that biotechnology aspects should be given due prominence in this programme. Developments with regard to biotechnology are galloping and many countries, especially developing countries, need assistance to keep pace with these developments.

Now, Mr Chairman, just a little note concerning the ad hoc Committee on TFAP; only a few words.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Puisqu'il s'agit d'une courte intervention, je préférerais que vous interveniez tout à l'heure, lorsque nous discuterons de ce comité ad hoc. Je crois que ce serait plus clair pour tout le monde, car nous avons décidé de séparer les deux matières. Vous êtes donc inscrit en premier lieu pour la prochaine discussion.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I can be very brief, Mr Chairman. Of the matters raised in the documents CL 102/4 and CL 102/17 we note that a number of these have their own agenda items and so I will not address them here.

I would just like to make some brief points about the Joint Inspection Unit and its reports.

The Sixty-fourth session of this committee examined various reports by the Joint Inspection Unit and I refer in particular to the JIU report on UN System Cooperation with Multilateral Financial Institutions. Information on this is contained in document CL 102/INF/17. The Director-General has added his own comments to the report and we note in this regard that several of the criticisms raised are included and discussed in the Report's conclusions. The thrust of the report is clear; we are all aware of the benefits of such cooperation for recipient countries and so any comments on the Organization which are aimed at increasing effectiveness in this area should be acted upon. The report freely admits that efforts are already being made to improve activities in this area but given that these activities are often very urgent it is not at all unreasonable for the JIU to wish to accelerate this process.

In February last year the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 45/237 which called upon Member Nations of Governing Bodies to ensure that JIU reports are given full consideration. Given our heavy agenda on this item today, Mr Chairman, I will not go into detail other than to say that my delegation has noted all these JIU reports and we assume that those recommendations of relevance to FAO will be followed up by the Secretariat.

**Titus SARIJANTO (Indonesia):** The Indonesian delegation welcome the Reports of the Programme Committee informing us the results of their examination on the implementation of five programmes which have shown progress although the work of the Organization is being highly affected by resource shortfalls. We highly appreciate the goodwill which reflect FAO's leadership style in making the best choices of alternatives under the current difficult financial and budget situation.

In agriculture, we note the progress being made in streamlining FAO Special Action Programme based on the convergence of Agenda 21 with the results of the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment.

In natural resources, we support the emphasis given to the assistance to governments on building their capacities to set up their own data bases, since this is linked to productive and efficient use of natural resources, amongst others the framework of developing specific farming system.

In regard to crops, Indonesia has been successfully implementing the innovative approach adopted by the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and is currently designing its modified methodology to be applied in extension and training activities. This is intended to promote the transfer of technology to be used by farmers at the farm level on a sustainable basis.

As regards Livestock Programmes, our delegation supports the new initiative to establish an action programme on the preservation and improvement of animal genetic resources aiming at increasing output per animal and genetic improvement.

On research and technology development, we also would like to support the Committee's willingness to strengthen research management capabilities and technology assessment and transfer which is especially oriented towards the strengthening of research-extension-farmer linkage.

In rural development, the Indonesian delegation notes the importance of underlining programmes on Women in Development, people's participation, and human resource improvement in agriculture through education, training, and extension activities for sustainable development of rural areas.

**Takayoshi ISHIDERA (Japan):** I would like to thank all members of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for discussing very important subjects for our Organization. As you know, Japan has a keen interest in the budget and programme and in the financial and legal issues of FAO as we are the second largest contributor.

However, both Committees have a closed system and it is very difficult to access the important discussions. I believe many member countries want to share in this information. It is necessary to examine whether the restricted committees could be changed to a more open style, for example, with the introduction of an observer system. In this connection, Japan would like to support the proposal of the distinguished United Kingdom delegation that Member Nations be able to discuss these matters at the next session of the Council.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je suppose que vous faites allusion à un groupe de travail qui s'est réuni récemment. Or il serait peut-être souhaitable de relire parfois les Textes fondamentaux; nous en avons d'ailleurs reçu une toute nouvelle édition parue en 1992 et qui, je suppose, a été distribuée à toutes les délégations. J'ai relu avec beaucoup d'intérêt le Règlement intérieur du Comité du Programme et celui du Comité financier. En son article II, le règlement intérieur du Comité du Programme prévoit que les séances du Comité sont privées à moins que le Comité n'en décide autrement. Cela figure au paragraphe 4 de l'article II. Il en est exactement de même pour le Comité financier; il est prévu, au paragraphe 3 de l'article de son Règlement intérieur, que les séances du Comité sont privées, à moins que le Comité n'en décide autrement.

Je suppose que vous vous êtes peut-être adressés à des collègues qui font partie de ces deux Comités en leur posant la question que vous venez de me poser. Le Règlement le permet mais il faut que vous posiez la question au Comité. Or, jusqu'à présent, j'ai eu l'honneur et le plaisir d'assister aux travaux du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme et je n'ai jamais entendu un membre faire cette demande. Le Règlement le permet mais je ne vois pas l'intérêt de procéder à une discussion au sein du Conseil sur un point sur lequel il vous serait possible d'obtenir satisfaction au sein des comités.

Je comprends parfaitement l'intérêt du Japon, contributeur très important qui, cette année, a fait un effort tout particulier pour payer sa contribution à temps, ce qui n'était pas une tradition. Mais je sais qu'il a le problème de l'année fiscale qui n'est pas tout à fait la même que l'année fiscale européenne. Je comprends son intérêt à l'égard du Comité financier. Il est évidemment possible pour le Japon de faire une proposition à la Conférence pour participer d'une manière plus active aux travaux de ce Comité, notamment en s'y faisant élire.

Quant à la question précise qui a été posée, je pense qu'il serait utile que nous relisions parfois les Textes fondamentaux.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Con suma brevedad, Sr. Presidente, quiero manifestarle que la delegación mexicana en lo general encuentra el informe del Comité del Programa muy adecuado. En apoyo de lo solicitado por usted, de ser breves, solamente queremos hacer un comentario.

La delegación mexicana toma nota de las opiniones del Comité del Programa respecto de la posibilidad de establecer un Programa de Acción sobre la conservación de los Recursos Genéticos Animales, cuyo objetivo sería aumentar la producción por animal y la mejora genética para generaciones futuras, tal como se contiene en el párrafo 1.38 del documento. Si bien estamos de acuerdo en que los aspectos de la biotecnología deban recibir la debida prioridad en el contexto del eventual Programa, hacemos hincapié en este foro en la necesidad de que dicho Programa Mundial se apegue en todos sus puntos a la Convención sobre Diversidad Biológica y a la Agenda 21 de la CNUMAD.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt)** (Original language Arabic): In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate; Egypt has actively taken part in the works of the 64th Session of the Programme Committee and therefore my delegation would like to reiterate its support for the programme and priorities contained in this document. We also support the wide interests of FAO in sustainable

development. We also support what is contained in Major Programme 2.1 related to natural resources. This programme aims at securing the conservation of land, water and soil resources.

My delegation, having carefully examined paragraphs 31-44 related to livestock resources, would like to express its full satisfaction with the efforts employed by FAO in order to eliminate screwworm fly, rinderpest and foot and mouth disease. We wish to praise the activities of FAO in this connection.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr Bommer for his fine introduction given to us on this Agenda Item.

**Oscar SALES PETINGA (Portugal):** Le Comité a procédé à l'examen des divers programmes et nous avons un grand éventail d'informations extrêmement importantes. Ainsi, on cite, par exemple, l'importance accordée dans les programmes agricoles aux questions de l'environnement et du développement durable, ainsi qu'aux familles d'agriculteurs, à tous les niveaux de la planification, en ce qui concerne la diversification et le développement durable des systèmes agricoles familiaux, conformément au paragraphe 1.18 du document, de même qu'à d'autres questions telles que la vulgarisation et les pratiques d'aménagement et de conservation des sols et des engrais.

En Afrique, où les populations sont obligées de cultiver les terres dans un système de cultures itinérantes mais où elles peuvent exploiter les sols au-delà de ce qui est recommandable, ce qui provoque des dégâts considérables dans le domaine de la conservation des sols, la participation de ces populations à la politique d'occupation des terrains et à leur distribution par la communauté est un aspect très important.

Nous estimons également important le sujet dont traite le paragraphe 1.26 du document, à savoir la diversification des cultures car celle-ci a une influence assez grande sur le rendement des agriculteurs de même que la sécurité alimentaire. Dans le cas des produits secs, on ne peut pas oublier les systèmes d'emmagasinement et de défense des produits contre les rats et autres ravageurs. En ce sens, l'année où va se tenir la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, on doit reconnaître davantage les difficultés de la population dont l'alimentation est basée sur les racines et tubercules de conservation difficile, ce qui provoque tantôt de grands excédents et tantôt des pénuries considérables. Afin d'éviter ces contradictions, il faut aussi prendre en considération l'utilisation des semences sélectionnées comme indiqué aux paragraphes 1.28 et 1.29, mais dont l'origine sera la région, de façon à permettre une adaptation plus facile.

En ce qui concerne les pertes causées par les maladies et ennemis des cultures, il est bon de recommander, après la récolte, l'application de pesticides - lesquels parfois n'existent pas dans les pays en développement - mais dont l'efficacité est reconnue. A cet égard, la formation professionnelle concernant la méthode d'application est très importante.

La délégation portugaise tient à mettre l'accent sur les résultats très positifs obtenus lors de la lutte contre la "lucilie bouchère" en Afrique du Nord, grâce à l'emploi de la technique de stérilisation des mâles, technique connue depuis longtemps mais, hélas, utilisée seulement récemment à grande échelle.

Nous pensons que cette technique devrait être appliquée à d'autres espèces d'un grand intérêt économique comme par exemple le Dacus Oleae, le Ceratitis capitata, de même que devraient être appliquées d'autres techniques connues comme l'attraction des mâles vers des cages, technique qui a été expérimentée chez nous contre l'hymantria dispar qui attaque les chênes -lièges.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** We do not want to divert attention from important forestry issues we are about to address but a few additional remarks on the Programme Committee's Reports seem appropriate.

First, we sincerely appreciate the Committee's tribute to the former US Ambassador Millicent Fenwick who died on 16 September of this year.

Secondly, the Committee's comments on Programme 5.1; Information and Documentation and Chapter I, General Policy and Direction, appear very useful and well balanced.

Thirdly, we support the comment in paragraph 2.62 that the use of consultants from European countries as a proportion of those from developed countries appears to be high.

Fourthly, we have also taken note of the UNGA resolution referred to by the United Kingdom and support his comments.

Fifthly, we concur with the comments made by Japan on making the Programme and Finance Committees more open and hope there will be more discussion on this item.

Finally, our view on TCP and on the Progress Report on the implementation of the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget will be highlighted during other Agenda Items.

#### TRIBUTE TO Mrs MILLICENT FENWICK. FORMER AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### HOMMAGE A Mme MILLICENT FENWICK. EX-AMBASSADEUR DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

#### HOMENAJE A LA Sra. MILLICENT FENWICK. EX-EMBAJADORA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais rendre hommage à la mémoire de Mme Fenwick que j'ai bien connue quand elle était Représentante permanente des Etats-Unis d'Amérique auprès de la FAO. Mme Fenwick était une personne remarquable dont nous conservons un souvenir particulièrement ému. C'était une grande dame.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** I note the haste with which we want to finish this particular aspect of the discussion. However, permit me to make a few comments, because all the items on the consideration of the Programme Committee report are of interest to a country like mine.

My delegation would intervene on this agenda item to note that the Programme Committee's comments are not unexpected, having regard to the circumstances which we would have been looking to take place after November 1991. The resource shortfalls and the negative fallout emanating therefrom were not

entirely unexpected. We want to note that ultimate impacts are insidious. They will not be dramatically visible in the short term. They will creep up on us and, after an effluxion of time, we shall see results which will be no less tragic because they are not dramatic: hunger, poverty, environmental degradation, the widening of the gap between the haves and the have-nots, between the developing and developed world.

I wish to point to some specific areas within the Report which are of concern to us in particular. It is noted from the report of the Programme Committee, which we read very carefully and for which we are very grateful, that a number of programmes have had to be modified or curtailed, in particular a programme area which I believe contributes significantly to bridging the gap between the developing and developed world, Programme area 2.1.4, Research and Technology Development. The Committee notes the link to extra-budgetary resources and the fact that there has been some significant reduction there among others. Our view is that agriculture, forestry and fisheries - agriculture, in particular - in the developed world will depend on the judicious application of science and technology, and therefore we would wish the Council to take note of the observation made in that paragraph with respect to science and technology.

We wish to congratulate the Organization, notwithstanding the resource shortfalls, for its continued efforts in assisting the development of agriculture in the CARICOM region. I speak of two specific initiatives which are current, one the development of a CARICOM seeds project to promote the production, use and quality control of good-quality seed material, and the other the assistance provided under TCP on an interim basis to help us retard the devastating effects of the amblyomma tick. I should like to make a little more comment on the amblyomma tick to indicate to the Council that the tick has now been found in Barbados. That means it has spread from the north Caribbean and is coming closer south. We have some proposals which have been developed with FAO in this regard and we are looking forward very much to some assistance from the international donor community in mounting a substantial project to retard that tick. Once it gets to Trinidad and Tobago, we are a mere nine kilometres from Venezuela, and we know what can happen once it gets into that area.

We commend the Programme Committee for its observations in paragraphs 1.4.8 and 1.4.9 about the extent to which countries should make better use of AGRIS and CARIS. We ourselves are doing so, and we commend that observation to others. We note their comments in paragraphs 1.58 on the whole question of rural development, improvement of human resources, agricultural education and extension. We merely wish to draw attention to a trend which is beginning to take place for the need, they say, to have these areas of agricultural education, extension and so on privatized and to discourage governments themselves from getting into these areas or continuing activities in these areas. I want to forewarn that that is not something which can just be looked at lightly. Developing countries must continue to invest and provide technical support in those areas.

I note, too, paragraphs 1.8 to 1.9 of document CL 102/17 relating to TCP and to postponement of activities in small island states. I merely reiterate, as I have done in the case of the amblyomma tick activity, the importance of TCP in coming to the aid of countries like ourselves when we need quick action. It is my hope and understanding that action and resources in this area will not be further depleted but will be increased.



**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Ainsi que vous l'avez remarqué, nous n'avons pas demandé à intervenir au titre de ce point qui est au débat, au moins pour la première partie, mais au cours des déclarations qui ont été faites comme à travers les documents, nous avons pris connaissance du décès de Mme Fenwick, ex-membre du Comité du Programme. Certes, elle ne venait pas aux sessions du Comité du Programme à Rome, mais de chez elle, elle a vécu avec nous ici. Le Comité du Programme, bien sur, a observé une minute de silence à sa mémoire. Je pense qu'il serait bon, Mme Fenwick ayant partagé nos difficultés et notre expérience ici, à Rome, et si les membres du Conseil en étaient d'accord, que dans les documents il soit fait mention du vibrant hommage que lui rend notre Conseil, et je pense que la meilleure façon de le faire pour gagner du temps, compte tenu de notre programme, serait que l'on observe une minute de silence.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement le délégué de la République du Congo de sa proposition. Nous allons en effet observer une minute de silence à la mémoire de Mme Fenwick que nous avons bien connue. Tous les membres du Groupe des 77 ont apprécié sa gentillesse, son ouverture, sa grande liberté d'esprit et à sa disponibilité. Nous avons eu l'occasion de rendre hommage à sa mémoire au Comité du programme mais il serait juste que le Conseil fasse de même.

Mais avant d'observer une minute de silence je voudrais passer la parole à M. Amin Abdel-Malek.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban)** (Langue originale arabe) : Je voudrais appuyer la proposition du représentant du Congo d'observer une minute de silence à la mémoire de Mme Fenwick.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons observer une minute de silence en pensant à Mme Fenwick.

One minute of silence Une minute de silence Un minuto de silencio

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

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

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

12. Reports of the Sixty-fourth and Sixty-fifth Sessions of the Programme Committee (continued)

12. Rapports des soixante-quatrième et soixante-cinquième sessions du Comité du Programme (suite)

12. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 64° y 65° del Comité del Programa (continuación)

**Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand):** Having listened to the previous speaker, my delegation feels that we must say something about the work of the Programme and Finance Committees. We should like to take this opportunity to thank all

the members of those two Committees who have expressed their concern about the negative effect of the budgetary gap in implementing the Programme of Work when there is a great need for FAO experts, as contained in paragraph 1.8 of document CL 102/17, and would also like to express our strong support for their request, as mentioned in this paragraph, that the level of TCP be increased in future budgets in accordance with Conference Resolution 9/89. We are happy to note that the members of these two Committees know well what the needs of developing countries are.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** I have very little to say and will take very little of your time, but there are two points on which I feel the Council debate merits a response.

Firstly, we are grateful for all the comments and guidance given. I should say that, whatever comments have been made about the implementation of the approved Programme Budget and the repercussions of the financial situation upon it, I will leave my reactions until such time as you consider that item because there will no doubt be a much wider debate and it will be more useful to the Council if the Secretariat reacts at that time.

The second point is about JIU. Since two distinguished representatives have referred to the matter, I should like to assure the Council that the arrangements regarding the JIU reports and their handling in FAO have been determined by the Council itself. I think, the arrangements seem to work fairly well. The arrangements are that, since the Council's time is limited, the Council delegated this responsibility to the Programme and Finance Committees almost exactly ten years ago. Therefore, all reports which have any relevance for FAO are considered both by the Programme and Finance Committees. By the same token, the reports are available to the members of the Council with the views of the two Committees.

I am not aware of any problem which I need to touch on. We certainly pay a great deal of attention to these matters.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** I can be very brief. First of all, I should like to say on behalf of my colleagues on the Programme Committee, that we certainly appreciate your comments on the work of the Committee. We have tried hard in the time available to come to grips with the review items we had to undertake on your behalf. We are happy to note that you have read the document very carefully and I was really pleased with some of the remarks because reading between the lines it was understood what we meant. At the same time, you might have understood that we tried in our division to indicate for the Programme of the Organization that there are areas where this Organization has had, and will have, intellectual leadership. I was happy with the remark of the delegate of Indonesia, because an excellent example is the IPM, the Integrated Pest Management, which had been moved through this Organization to become a very important global programme. Indonesia is one of the pilot countries in which the IPM has been introduced. So that the Government could ban all insecticide use, and thus increase their harvest. I just give this example of how it goes from the intellectual leadership down to country implementation, at the same time trying to indicate the typical type of innovative activities this Organization has to undertake with member governments, and certainly a large number of activities in which this Organization can only be reactive to the wishes of its members.

With those few remarks, I have not noted that there have been any particular questions to answer but I feel, depending on the considerations of the Council, and how this is read by us, that the rules of our procedures - I could assume that our comments here would indicate that we would be quite happy to see openness in our sessions, because we have nothing to hide. You might also read one of the paragraphs which says that it is the responsibility of all of us here also to increase or decrease expenses which we have in various committees and meetings, depending on the length of time we have. So I think this also needs to be considered if we are thinking of inviting the participation of such committees where we have to conclude our work in a given time.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Ayant eu la chance de suivre les travaux du Comité du Programme, je tiens à rendre hommage à la qualité des interventions et à la qualité des représentants au sein du Comité du Programme qui ont pris réellement à coeur cette tâche importante. Conformément aux dispositions statutaires ils viennent de différents horizons. Il y a un Représentant de l'Australie, des Barbades, du Canada, de l'Egypte, de l'Inde, du Kuwait, du Lesotho, de la Malaisie, du Mexique et de la Tunisie. Les représentants au sein du Comité du Programme ont beaucoup de contacts avec leur collègues et amis au sein des différents groupes et ils ont l'occasion de faire les commentaires voulus. En ce qui concerne les travaux des différents Comités, je crois que ces Comités sont largement ouverts et de par la personnalité des différents membres des Comités, je crois que ceux-ci exercent dans leur différents groupes un large rayonnement et qu'ils font certainement participer leur collègues à l'expérience et aux discussions qu'ils ont au sein du Comité.

Nous arrivons au terme de cette première partie de l'examen du Comité du Programme. Avez-vous des questions complémentaires à poser au Directeur général adjoint, M.Shah, ou au Président du Comité du Programme?...

Puisqu'il n'y a pas de questions, je passerai à la seconde partie: l'examen des activités du Comité du Programme concernant le Programme d'action forestier tropical.

Nous sommes saisis d'un certain nombre de documents, dont les rapports des deux sessions du Comité du Programme, du document CL 102/21 contenant un rapport sur la création d'un groupe consultatif sur le Programme d'action forestier tropical avec un corrigendum 1 contenant des tableaux de prévision de coût de l'organisation de ce groupe consultatif, et également d'un document supplément 1 qui contient les observations de la Banque mondiale et du PNUD sur le document prévoyant la création d'un groupe consultatif sur le Programme d'action forestier tropical.

Je voudrais, en guise de préambule, remercier tous ceux qui ont activement travaillé au sein des différentes réunions qui ont eu lieu, en particulier le représentant des Pays-Bas, le Dr Rabe de Madagascar qui a été vraiment un des piliers les plus dynamiques et les plus actifs (j'ai observé sa participation un jour où son état de santé n'était pas brillant, mais il avait tenu à être présent). Il y avait également le Président du groupe des 77, l'Ambassadeur de Malaisie et d'autres personnalités. Il y a eu beaucoup d'échanges de vue, beaucoup de discussions qui ont permis progressivement de dégager un certain nombre de points de convergence et parfois certains points de divergence. Je crois d'ailleurs qu'il est heureux qu'au sein d'une Organisation comme la nôtre il n'y ait pas que des points de convergence mais qu'il y ait également

des points de divergence qui permettent, dans une atmosphère détendue, des confrontations qui sont utiles car c'est de la confrontation que naissent les progrès qui permettent d'aller de l'avant.

Un des points les plus importants - on l'a évoqué hier à l'occasion du débat sur les faits nouveaux survenus dans la famille des Nations Unies présentés par Mme Killingsworth - est la nécessité de collaboration avec un certain nombre d'autres membres de la famille des Nations Unies. Ce serait peut-être l'occasion d'essayer de resserrer les liens entre ces différentes Organisations. Je suis convaincu que beaucoup de membres du Conseil sont en même temps membres d'autres agences et qu'ils exercent incontestablement de par leur présence et de par leur action, une influence. Ce serait donc le moment peut-être de faire un test sur la volonté, dans la famille des Nations Unies, de travailler ensemble sur un point précis, sur lequel nous souhaitons tous que l'Organisation puisse être réellement opérationnelle. Le but n'est d'ailleurs pas de prévoir des réunions, des groupes de travail, des comités, des sous-comités, des groupes ad hoc, pour le plaisir de sortir un certain nombre de rapports qu'on lit ou qu'on lit mal, auxquels on se réfère parfois en tout ou en partie. Le but principal est incontestablement d'être opérationnel dans l'intérêt à la fois des pays en développement et de la grande communauté internationale.

Les membres du Conseil pourraient exercer une influence sur ce qu'on a appelé les co-parrains, les sponsors, sur les organisations qui en définitive s'occupent également des problèmes de la forêt, en l'occurrence la Banque mondiale, qui a de vastes programmes et qui est préoccupée de suivre les recommandations de l'Agenda 21. On a parlé des problèmes d'environnement. La forêt est un élément très important de l'environnement, de la reconstitution des sols, de tout un équilibre permettant un développement harmonieux dans un système agro-sylvo-pastoral. Une organisation qui a les moyens de la Banque mondiale devrait pouvoir travailler avec notre Organisation qui a des responsabilités clairement précisées et définies dans le domaine de la forêt.

Personne ne contestera la compétence de la FAO et ses devoirs en matière d'agriculture, de pêche et de forêts. Il en est de même pour le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement qui reçoit des contributions volontaires d'un certain nombre de pays membres de ce Conseil qui sont des donateurs particulièrement important au sein du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement.

On a parlé des contacts qui auront lieu dans très peu de temps à Tokyo, à IITTO. On a parlé du PNUE à Nairobi. Est-ce qu'il ne serait pas possible d'imaginer que, grâce à l'appui moral d'un certain nombre de pays membres de ce Conseil, on puisse constituer un très petit groupe avec des représentants de ce Conseil, qui pourrait s'appeler le Groupe des amis ou des ennemis du Président (on peut trouver toutes les formulations possibles), qui serait amené à présenter avant le prochain COFO un document précis, concret, avec les implications financières sur la création d'un tout petit groupe consultatif réellement opérationnel, sous la responsabilité des Etats, en définissant les termes de référence et le type de participation d'organisations, très mal définies pour le moment, que sont les organisations non gouvernementale. La définition d'une organisation non gouvernementale est impossible, et si on cherche à les définir par catégorie, cela va durer des siècles de discussion, parce qu'il existe des organisations non gouvernementales sans but lucratif, avec but lucratif, etc. Mais un groupe de travail, qui devra en référer au Comité de forêts en 1993 et ensuite à la prochaine session de notre Conseil

devrait pouvoir à la fois être restreint et quand même représentatif d'un certain nombre de tendances, de façon à permettre des propositions précises.

Un certain nombre de spécialistes du Secrétariat ont étudié les différents documents et les ont préparés avec beaucoup de zèle, d'enthousiasme pour essayer de déboucher sur des conclusions concrètes. Le Comité du Programme s'est longuement penché sur le PAFT. Les discussions qui ont eu lieu au sein de ce Comité ont été extrêmement utiles et le document de synthèse CL 102/21 qui nous est soumis avec les avis de la Banque mondiale et du PNUD constitue un pas en avant.

Je ne crois pas qu'il soit possible à ce stade de définir le groupe ad hoc. Il serait quand même utile que les membres du Conseil ou les observateurs nous fassent part de manière succincte de leurs avis, mais je proposerai de tenter de rapprocher les points de vue de ceux qu'on a appelés les co-parrains ou les sponsors, les papas ou les mamans, de façon à ce que les Organisations internationales qui se préoccupent du problème de la forêt puissent confronter leur position. Si un échec intervient dans cette tentative, la FAO aura de son côté fait le maximum d'ouvertures, de pas en avant pour permettre un dialogue que tous nous souhaitons et qui est souhaité également au sein de la famille des Nations Unies.

Je n'en dirai pas plus pour le moment. Je donnerai la parole au Président du Comité du Programme qui connaît beaucoup mieux que moi le problème. Il s'agit d'une simple proposition faite après un certain nombre de contacts. J'aimerais beaucoup que vous puissiez me faire part de vos avis, et à la fin de notre discussion je tenterai de dégager une conclusion.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** Mr Chairman, actually you have already taken the issue one step further as the Programme Committee had the possibility to consider - and I just want to repeat here - that after the third session of this ad hoc Group on TFAP in September the Programme Committee considered the compromise proposal reached there, and after lengthy debate the Committee felt that this was something worth considering. We welcomed this compromise. At the same time we expressed concern that the co-sponsors, UNDP and World Bank, were not yet fully prepared to join in this, and meanwhile we have a note from them that it is really true, and we had expressed the hope they would.

The third point was that we felt the whole proposal was still too vague, maybe too wide open, and therefore we requested the Director-General to draw up a more concrete form of it, including the financial implications. This is the document which is before you prepared by the Director-General.

This is the interim action the Programme Committee could take. It actually boils down to two issues, in our opinion. One is the participation of co-sponsorship on equal grounds, and the second is the size and membership of the Group. These are the two matters on which a compromise had to be found. Then I think it should be returned immediately to the debate of the Council, because that is all the advice we can give at this stage.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr Chairman, I take the floor at this time to introduce Council document CL 102/21, Establishment of a Consultative Group on the Tropical Forest Action Programme, and will also speak to the Supplement thereto.

The revamping of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan was on the agenda for the 98th, 99th and 100th Sessions of the Council. At these sessions the Council endorsed all the recommendations for a revamped TFAP with the exception of a Tropical Forestry Fund, and a new international consultative mechanism for the TFAP. All the endorsed recommendations have been or are being implemented.

At its 100th Session, the Council decided to establish an ad hoc Group to work out solutions for unresolved institutional issues, and to report its conclusions to the Programme Committee. The ad hoc Group held three sessions and was assisted by a sub-group consisting of 20 Member Nations. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to express the Director-General's appreciation for the hard work that the ad hoc Group and its sub-group have devoted to this matter, and especially for the fact that they were able to arrive at a compromise proposal for a TFAP Consultative Group, as reported in Annex I of document CL 102/21.

I want to point out that this was not an FAO effort. This was an effort that was chaired, coordinated, conducted by Member Nations and their partners on the matter. In fact, it was a remarkable achievement that the Chairman and his group managed to produce, taking from five options that were before the ad hoc Group and finding a way to bring about a consensus on the Group and how it might be established.

The Chairman of the Programme Committee has called to the attention of the Council its conclusions on this matter.

In response to the views of the Programme Committee that there was need for further clarification of the action to be taken by the Council and on the guidance that the Council should give to the proposed TFAP Consultative Group on the participation of Consultative Group members, the views of the Director-General on these matters, and on the financial and administrative implications, are presented beginning with paragraph 7 of the document before you entitled "Establishment of a Consultative Group on the TFAP".

Upon reviewing the document, the Director-General felt obliged to call to the attention of the Council the unique and unprecedented nature of this proposal. In particular, caution was expressed over the potential size of the proposed Consultative Group, the proposed frequency of meetings, and the consequent potential cost, which is estimated in the attachment to the document itself.

He encourages the Council to place a reasonable limit on the size of the proposed Consultative Group, and to limit the frequency of meetings to no more than once a year. He believes that the Council should provide clear guidance on the composition of the Consultative Group, the manner in which the actual participants are to be selected, and that the status of intergovernmental and non-governmental participants should be addressed. He proposes for consideration of the Council the composition of the proposed Consultative Group in paragraph 13, and goes on to make suggestions for consideration on selection procedures and the status of participants.

After reviewing the proposed terms of reference, the Director-General suggests a reformulation of the introductory phrase to those adopted at the Paris Consultation in September 1991, and the reformulation of the last paragraph concerning funds for the implementation of National Forestry Action Programmes.

In addition, the Director-General has consulted the co-sponsors of the TFAP both on the Report of the ad hoc Group and on the paper before the Council. Their views and comments are brought to the attention of the Council in CL 102/21 Supplement 1. I will simply add that both the World Bank and the UNDP will continue to co-sponsor the TFAP, and will participate in the work of the Consultative Group, should it be established. They do not, however, feel themselves to be in a position to be co-sponsors of the Consultative Group itself. That is a matter, particularly in the case of the World Bank, where they believe there is some question over their ability to do so. However, I assure you that I talked with Mr Rajagopalan, the Vice President at the World Bank, the night before last, and he reaffirms what is in the document and the fact that the World Bank will continue to be a co-sponsor on the Tropical Forestry Action Programme and will participate fully in the work of the Consultative Group should it be established.

Mr Chairman, the Director-General stands ready to assist the Council in whatever manner it may require. We look forward to your debate and decisions.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** Yesterday there was an informal consultation between the Group of 77 and the OECD countries. It was my understanding that some sort of agreement was reached in that informal consultation and I was wondering, Mr Chairman, whether the Council could be informed as to what was arrived at during that informal consultation. If the agreement that has been reached in that small informal group is acceptable to the Committee, I hope we will be spared a long and unnecessary debate on the matter. I would, therefore, request that the two Co-Chairmen of the informal consultation which was held yesterday be given the first opportunity to speak.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie vivement M. Carandang de sa proposition très opérationnelle. Il n'appartient évidemment pas au Président du Conseil de tenter d'étouffer un débat. Je suis entre vos mains mais la proposition qui vient d'être faite me paraît fort sage. Des consultations ont eu lieu et je me permettrai de demander à M. Baghwan, de l'Inde, de prendre la parole et, éventuellement, à M. Rabe, de Madagascar, s'il veut nous faire connaître son avis. Il est évident qu'ensuite, les pays qui voudront intervenir pourront le faire, mais nous leur demanderons d'être très brefs et d'éviter, dans la mesure du possible, un long débat sur des propositions au sujet desquelles nous pourrions nous mettre rapidement d'accord, ce qui nous permettrait de poursuivre l'examen des autres points de l'ordre du jour.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I did not wish to take the floor as I have already spoken to you this afternoon and I had thought you would be announcing the agreed solution which we have made after our informal discussions yesterday and this morning. I also did not wish to be very long, Mr Chairman. I only want to inform the Council that a select number of G-77 members and members from the OECD had had informal discussions yesterday and also this morning.

The feeling yesterday in this Group, comprising G-77 and OECD Members, was that all of us - each one of us - without exception if I may say so, expressed their deep and serious concern as well as their anxiety about the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Programme. It was also the view of most of us that what is important is the financial assistance that is required, as well as technical assistance, for implementing the 86 National Forestry Action Plans that are lying ready; perhaps there are more now lying ready.

As far as the CG is concerned, Mr Chairman, some of the members in that joint group expressed the idea that this group should be independent. At that stage the members from the Group of 77 had said that in that case it would really not be making any progress or moving forward, but it would mean we are moving maybe ten steps, maybe one hundred steps, or at least one and a half years, back in time. That was one of the options when we considered the issue in the Council and the decision of the Council was to reach a compromise or find a solution which blends option 1 and option 5.

This was, I must say, our friends on the other side who readily agreed and they readily conceded this point. Thereafter, Mr Chairman, I was quite moved that there was a very positive and constructive atmosphere and our discussions took place in that kind of atmosphere. I had a feeling that maybe we would not make a decision in this informal discussion, but we will certainly pave the way for a big decision, if not now, then after some time.

We had very cordial discussions, and, realizing the importance of implementing these plans, it was the view expressed on both sides that we should have the World Bank, the UNDP and any other international organizations as co-sponsors of this programme as well as the consultative group. For that purpose it was agreed that we should request the Director-General to make efforts to bring all the organizations together in the interests of implementing this very, very important programme; not only that, Mr Chairman, but it was also agreed not only our institutional Heads but the Member Governments should use their influence in persuading these organizations to come together for the purpose of implementing this programme.

We have a feeling that in this world of today, and at this stage when we are talking of coordination and cooperation at all levels, we cannot really afford to have diverging tendencies. This is a programme which is of interest to all of us in addition to all these organizations and I do not see any reason why all the organizations concerned with this programme should not be joining hands.

There was a second decision which the informal discussions would like to recommend. As I told you earlier, as far as the Consultation Group is concerned, in the informal discussions we thought that it would be better that they were left to you, Mr Chairman; that the broad suggestions made here in the paper before us under consideration were good proposals, and by and large the members would go along with it, but as far as it was a question of working out the modalities of these suggestions, it would be you, Mr Chairman, who would work out the details and come back to the Council in the next Session. Those are precisely the decisions we took. They are not very momentous decisions, but I think they can pave the way for big decisions.

While I have the floor, Mr Chairman, I would like to mention our view was -and we were talking to the Members outside in the lobby - that we would not



again re-open a debate on this subject. We had two sessions of the Forestry Forum for Developing Countries on this issue, we had three sessions of the ad hoc Group on TFAP, and we spent one full day at each meeting. I would like to record my appreciation and my gratitude to my friend, Rabe Raphael, who did his job commendably in reaching an agreed solution which should pave the way for the Consultative Group and that will be done only when you have worked out the further modalities and come back to the Council. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement M. Baghwan de son exposé. En fait, il comprend deux points. Le premier point - je l'ai longuement développé - concerne la participation de l'ensemble des membres de la famille des Nations Unies: la Banque mondiale, le PNUD, le PNUE, dont le Directeur général adjoint vient le parler. J'ai longuement exposé la nécessité pour les membres du Conseil d'exercer toute leur influence morale sur ces organisations pour obtenir leur pleine participation au Groupe consultatif, dont les modalités doivent être fixées. Je n'ai pas voulu vous parler d'emblée - ce n'est pas à moi qu'il revient de faire cette proposition - de ce groupe de contact qui établirait un rapport à soumettre, à mon avis, au Comité des forêts ou au CQCJ, ou éventuellement au Comité du Programme, de façon que la première session du Conseil de 1993 puisse arriver à un consensus. Il est nécessaire de réaffirmer qu'il ne peut s'agir d'un groupe consultatif indépendant et, s'il s'agit d'un groupe consultatif indépendant, on peut le créer n'importe où, sauf ici; la ville de Rome est suffisamment grande pour créer tous les groupes consultatifs indépendants que l'on peut imaginer, mais certainement pas dans cette enceinte.

Le Groupe de contact serait chargé de déterminer non pas les termes de référence qui ont déjà été clairement stipulés lors de tous les travaux et contacts antérieurs mais de déterminer la composition du groupe consultatif de façon à ce qu'il puisse fonctionner le plus rapidement possible dans la perspective d'une décision à prendre au prochain Conseil.

Je partage tout à fait votre avis en ce qui concerne votre désir d'éviter de rouvrir un large débat. Par contre, il serait bon que certains pays puissent transmettre leurs premières réactions à la proposition qui a été faite. Je ne sais pas si les groupes ont eu l'occasion d'en délibérer très longuement mais nous ne pouvons pas empêcher les membres du Conseil ou l'un ou l'autre des observateurs de faire une brève intervention, éventuellement une suggestion qui serait de nature à nous permettre de conclure très rapidement de façon concrète et opérationnelle.

Avant de passer au point d'ordre de Mme l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela je voudrais redonner la parole au Président du Groupe des 77.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I am sorry to ask for the floor again. I only wish to clarify two things.

The first point is this. When I talked of the Consultative Group, I am not talking - and we did not talk - about an independent group yesterday. As I said, it was proposed to begin with but it is restricted to the proposal of a consultative group under Article 6.5 which we have been discussing all the time.

My second point is this on a contact group. We did not talk about a contact group, we only talked about you, Mr Chairman! We wanted you to undertake this task for the Council and for all us and to work out the modalities of this group. When I talk of modalities, I mean the very points which you have clarified.

**LE PRESIDENT:** C'est exactement de que je voulais dire. Concernant la notion d'indépendance, nous sommes bien d'accord. A propos du Groupe de contact j'ai parlé d'amis ou d'ennemis du Président. Si je prends la responsabilité de cette tâche, je l'assume, à condition d'avoir les contacts voulus avec les différents groupes de façon à arriver à une proposition susceptible de recevoir l'agrément du prochain Conseil. Que j'aie la présidence d'un groupe informel de contact ou que je sois seul amené à prendre des contacts, je ne vois pas très bien la différence. Dès que je prends des contacts formels ou informels je constitue inévitablement un groupe. Si vous préférez que l'on n'utilise pas le terme "groupe", je dirai que le Président, en contact avec l'ensemble des intéressés, au sens le plus large - on ne parle même pas de pays intéressés, cela peut être des organisations intéressées - prépare une proposition à soumettre - et là il y a différentes hypothèses, je crois qu'il serait bon de clarifier les choses à soumettre, par exemple, la proposition du document 21 qui parle du CQCJ, la proposition qui peut être faite au prochain Comité du Programme, la proposition qui peut être faite au Comité des Forêts...

Avant de passer au point d'ordre j'aimerais quand même que M. Bhagwan nous dise quelles sont ses préférences, puisqu'il a eu l'occasion de présider certaines réunions concernant le rapport qui devrait être fait, en suivant l'une des trois hypothèses: Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, Comité du Programme, Comité des Forêts, étant entendu que ces Comités qui sont subsidiaires au Conseil se réfèreraient avec leurs avis et considérations, au prochain Conseil de juin 1993.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Perdón, es una cuestión de orden,

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quisiera tener la contestación del Sr. Bhagwan e inmediatamente después usted tendrá la palabra para saber exactamente cómo se presenta la cosa.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I am grateful to you, Mr Chairman, for seeking this clarification. We discussed this issue in the afternoon. Our reaction was that it will be used, Mr Chairman, and if you wish to associate anyone else you will be free to do so. Then, as far as the question of reporting is concerned, I think you mentioned COFI. We said COFI is all right. It can come through COFI to the Council or it can come through the Programme Committee, as it did last time, but it is left to your wish, Mr Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci de cette disponibilité.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Yo debo comenzar por dar apoyo a la proposición del delegado Carandang, porque él está perfectamente en lo cierto

en cuanto a las ocurrencias de los hechos. Luego, debo decir, que en mi calidad de Presidente del GRULAC, no fue Mercedes Fermín, delegada de Venezuela quien está hablando, sino la presidencia del GRULAC. Asistí a una reunión convocada por el señor Presidente de los 77 para discutir un problema en una forma extraoficial. En esa reunión no llegamos a ningún acuerdo, se mantuvo la proposición que hoy hace el Sr. Carandang de no decidir, y, se dijo, que en forma oficiosa se iba a consultar a las organizaciones interesadas en eso que ha mencionado el representante de la India.

De una manera curiosa nosotros fuimos excluidos de esa reunión oficiosa. En aquel momento no se habló de que se iba a constituir un grupo consultivo independiente, porque yo habría preguntado inmediata e independientemente de quién y de qué, puesto que si estamos en una organización de respeto y seriedad como ésta, no pueden surgir organismos y grupos independientes dentro de ella, so pena de ser desleal y creo que la primera condición para pertenecer aquí es la lealtad a los documentos básicos, a los principios y a la organización misma. De manera que no habría yo admitido en ningún momento que se hablara de organismos, reuniones o consejos consultivos independientes dentro de la FAO. Continuamos la reunión y llegamos al acuerdo de que no íbamos a poder resolver ninguna decisión ni ninguno de los incisos 1, 4 y 5 de las posiciones que se mencionaron allí, no había posibilidad.

Yo no quiero incurrir en el mismo error en que está incurriendo usted, con todos mis respetos, no había ambiente ni posibilidad para que se tomara una decisión de discutir esto en este Consejo, y esa fue la impresión y la información que yo tuve cuando nos retiramos de aquella reunión. Ahora, accidentalmente, me entero que hubo otra reunión con otras personas, con otros grupos y que se tomaron decisiones y se hicieron acuerdos. Yo voy a manifestar categórica y seriamente como acostumbro hacerlo, mi protesta por esta decisión, porque nosotros no podemos estar trayendo aquí a nombre de Grupos, porque el Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe es un Grupo que tiene tanta importancia como todos los grupos que hay aquí en la FAO y no es posible que se tomen decisiones detrás de la puerta cuando primero nos han convocado para que participemos en ello. Por esa razón yo dejo aquí establecida mi protesta respecto a esto y estoy de acuerdo con la proposición del delegado Carandang de que no podemos traer a este Consejo ninguna consideración respecto a este tema.

Perdóneme por mi actitud, pero yo estoy acostumbrada a que cuando hay un punto de orden, es un punto de orden.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Para perdonar, habría que ver primero si es un punto de orden, me parece que no es un punto de orden, es una aclaración y no más.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Tout d'abord, je voudrais dire que j'appuie la proposition que nous a faite M. Carandang consistant, plutôt qu'à ouvrir un nouveau débat, à écouter les deux chefs des deux groupes. Nous avons déjà eu l'occasion d'écouter le chef du Groupe des 77. Logiquement je m'attendais à écouter la confirmation de ce que le Groupe des 77 a avancé, par le Groupe de l'OCDE. Après ces deux déclarations, on peut aller de l'avant, sinon nous n'aurons pas choisi la bonne méthode.

Je suggère donc que la parole soit donnée aux pays qui dirigent l'OCDE afin que nous sachions les points sur lesquels ils sont tombés d'accord avec le Groupe des 77.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le Groupe de l'OCDE pourra s'exprimer quand il le souhaitera. La proposition de M. Carandang me paraît être une proposition pleine de sagesse.

Vous avez entendu la proposition du Groupe des 77. Si l'un ou l'autre membre du Conseil, membre du Groupe OCDE désire se faire l'interprète de son groupe pour exprimer son accord ou son désaccord sur la proposition qui vient d'être faite par l'honorable représentant de l'Inde, je lui donnerai la parole.

Je crois que nous devons nous déterminer le plus tôt possible sur la proposition de M. Carandang, qui nous permettrait de gagner du temps.

Je vois qu'un membre du Groupe OCDE demande la parole: les Pays-Bas.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I have just been told that the Chairman of the OECD Group does not feel well so he has left the building. On behalf of the OECD Group, I cannot say that we support everything that has been said by Mr Bhagwan of India but we agreed on a certain group of points which were also mentioned in the comments of the Director-General on this subject.

We said to each other: "We do not have problems with the size - the reduced size - of the Consultative Group".

Secondly, - and this is the summary - which was delivered yesterday by our colleague from Senegal. We want to have an election process for membership of the Consultative Group, as we do for the CFA and that kind of Committee's. There was no disagreement on that.

On the frequency of meetings, we had a very wise suggestion from Mr Rabe of Madagascar that we start with one meeting per year and, if we feel this is not enough, then perhaps we will take the decision to have more meetings per year.

On participation, there was no difference of views. We agreed on a strong appeal to the Director-General of FAO namely that he starts negotiations again and that in his contacts with the heads of the World Bank and UNDP and ask for their full participation in the Consultative Group.

On the subject of reporting, we should consult COFO first, then the report will go to the Programme Committee and then, of course, the definite decision will be made in the next Council meeting.

Those were the points and there was no disagreement about them, although we noticed that the United States and Sweden had different views on the matter. We can listen to those during this debate. The idea of the informal group last night was that if we agree on these matters there will be a need for a brief of contact group. I am so happy that you have called this a contact group. If you had called it a group of friends of the Chairman, I was afraid that I would not get an invitation! A contact group can work out these five points; they are relatively simple matters. It is only the text of the Director-General that is the most difficult one.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement le délégué des Pays-Bas de son intervention très claire qui rejoint en fait le point de vue développé par M. Bhagwan. Nous en revenons à la proposition de M. Carandang des Philippines de conclure immédiatement. Nous aurons l'occasion de débattre plus longuement de cette question au prochain Conseil sur la base des propositions qui seront faites. Néanmoins, compte tenu de l'énorme travail effectué par M. Rabe, je vais laisser la parole à Madagascar et vous demander si vous êtes d'accord avec la proposition de M. Carandang.

Compte tenu de l'énorme travail déployé par M. Rabe, je donne la parole au représentant de Madagascar, et je vous demanderai si vous marquez votre accord à la proposition de M. Carandang.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** Je ne peux me taire, ayant entendu les nombreux compliments qui ont été formulés à notre endroit. Je remercie d'abord vous même, Monsieur le Président, et toutes les délégations qui ont prononcé des mots encourageants à notre endroit. C'est un honneur pour notre pays et pour nous mêmes.

J'aimerais souligner l'effort très appréciable que toutes les délégations, quelle que soit leur appartenance, qui ont participé aux différentes réunions, ont fourni pour entretenir un climat de sérénité et de coopération. Elles ont donc permis d'arriver à des propositions que nous apprécions actuellement. Leur ouverture d'esprit et leur volonté de dialogue n'ont d'égal que leur désir de relancer le PAFT afin que les pays puissent enfin mettre en oeuvre leur programme d'action forestier national.

Compte tenu des nombreuses réunions, des efforts fournis, des abnégations constatées, je pense qu'il est temps de conclure et d'arriver à une conclusion. Nous avons nous mêmes participé à la réunion organisée par l'OCDE et le Groupe des 77 hier et il m'a semblé qu'on est arrivé à une proposition intéressante qui a été définie par M. Bhagwan, Président du Groupe des 77, qui a été reprise en détail par le délégué des Pays-Bas. Je ne puis qu'appuyer chaleureusement cette proposition et ce serait en quelque sorte une reconnaissance de la qualité des travaux du groupe ad hoc. Nous serions heureux de constater que les recommandations que nous avons formulées aient pu faciliter l'examen de ce point par le Conseil.

Beaucoup de points soulevés par le Secrétariat dans le document 21 ont été examinés et ont pu rencontrer un commun accord sur beaucoup de ces points: la taille réduite, la fréquence des réunions, la désignation des membres du groupe consultatif et surtout la nécessité absolue pour les co-parrains d'oeuvrer ensemble. Nous avons insisté sur le fait qu'il était absolument indispensable que les pays membres de ce Conseil usent de leur influence pour que les institutions concernant la Banque mondiale surtout et le PNUD bien entendu adoptent une attitude constructive et positive, et collaborent d'une manière étroite et intense avec la FAO pour lever les goulots d'étranglement qui existent.

Pour terminer j'appuie en tout cas chaleureusement la proposition du Président du Groupe des 77 et de l'OCDE par la voix de la délégation des Pays-Bas.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. Rabe de son intervention. Maintenant je voudrais que le Conseil se prononce sur la proposition des Philippines parce que si je

commence à donner la parole à l'un ou à l'autre, la proposition de M. Carandang n'aura plus beaucoup de sens. Je vais donc lui donner la parole pour qu'il puisse reformuler sa proposition et pour que le Conseil se prononce sur cette proposition.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** Like Mr Rabe, the Philippine delegation supports the views taken by the Contact Group yesterday, not because it is a representative group - it is not a representative group because it was a sort of informal group, formed in a hurry, and there was a lot to be desired in the way the group was formed, some delegations not being available, others not being able to be contacted - I support it because I think the ideas it has proposed are valid, sane and valuable for resolving our problems. I therefore fully support the view which has been put forward by Mr Bhagwan and Mr Prillewitz and I hope that the Council will also support it as it will very much facilitate our work.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le Conseil doit se prononcer sur la proposition de M. Carandang des Philippines, de façon à éviter d'ouvrir le débat.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Perdona usted que intervenga, Sr. Presidente. No es una moción de orden, sino aclaratoria. Deseo como miembro de este Consejo que se me aclare lo siguiente: Quiero tener muy clara la propuesta del Sr. Carandang. No quiero cometer errores. Desde mi punto de vista, el Consejo le encargó a un Grupo Especial de Trabajo analizar temas relacionados con el PAFT. Este Grupo Especial, a su vez le encargó a un subgrupo que realizara un análisis, el subgrupo ha hablado de la constitución de un Comité Consultivo o de un Grupo Consultivo. A mi modo de entender, el subgrupo le remite esta propuesta al Grupo Especial de Trabajo y éste, a su vez, la somete al Consejo. Hasta ahí estamos perfectamente de acuerdo, lo que ocurre es que ahora usted le pide al señor representante del Director General, al Sr. Hjort que nos haga una exposición del tema, él la hace, usted abre el debate y ahora escuchamos que hay diversas opiniones. Con todo el debido respeto, siendo yo miembro del Grupo de los 77, apoyo en este momento la posición de nuestra querida Presidenta del GRULAC, el Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe.

Nosotros queremos dejar muy claro que la posición a la que se pudo haber llegado en el día de ayer entre el Grupo de los 77 y la OCDE no es una posición del Grupo de los 77, es una posición de un grupo informal de trabajo en la que nosotros no hemos tenido injerencia.

Nosotros queremos que esto quede muy claro, en primer término, y en segundo, queremos que nos expliquen con mucha claridad a qué se refiere la propuesta del Sr. Carandang, porque nuestro criterio, si se me permite expresarlo ahora, es que este asunto se traslade para su análisis al próximo COFO.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La proposition de M. Carandang consiste à décider de ne pas décider maintenant, et de demander au Président Indépendant du Conseil de prendre les contacts voulus et de voir dans quelle mesure on pourrait aboutir à remettre en action les co-parrains les sponsors, c'est-à-dire la Banque mondiale et le PNUD, de façon à voir, en contact avec les différents membres de la FAO, comment procéder en ce qui concerne le nombre des participants à

ce groupe consultatif - c'est un des problèmes essentiels - la méthode de travail, la fréquence des réunions. Je crois que l'on en a suffisamment parlé pour savoir que l'ensemble du Conseil souhaite que soient soumises des propositions précises et concrètes au prochain Comité du programme ou au prochain Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques ou au prochain COFO. Il est utile que le prochain COFO ait connaissance de l'état des contacts et des premières approches qui pourraient être pris d'ici le mois de mars 1993 de façon à permettre au prochain Conseil de prendre la décision que le Conseil estimerait devoir prendre.

Donc, la proposition de M. Carandang consiste à ne pas ouvrir un débat sur ce point et à décider qu'on ne décide pas. On ne va pas ouvrir une discussion de plusieurs heures pour en arriver à retenir la proposition de M. Carandang en disant que l'on décide de ne pas décider. Ce serait une perte de temps. Nous avons un ordre du jour suffisamment chargé pour ne pas consacrer un temps considérable à ce genre de débat. Je ne veux pas empêcher qui que ce soit d'intervenir, mais la proposition est claire.

Je voudrais que le Conseil se prononce sur la proposition de M. Carandang. Si l'un ou l'autre pays veut intervenir sur cette proposition, il a bien le droit de prendre la parole.

**Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand):** Having listened to Mr Carandang's proposal and to the Chairman of the Group of 77 and the Chairman of the OECD countries, I understand that we agree to set up a Contact Group under Article VI. 5 and then, as Mr Carandang said, we shall not need to talk about the details at the present time.

**LE PRESIDENT:** On décide de ne pas décider. On demande au Président de prendre les contacts voulus.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** Thank you for the compliment, Mr Chairman, but I am constantly in direct contact with Mr Carandang. I think, as you have said, that it is a very clear proposal. Indeed, we decide not to decide at this moment, but we want to keep the whole matter moving. We go step by step. The first step is that in a small Contact Group under your Chairmanship or that of one of your Vice-Chairmen, we discuss size, frequency, appointment, etc. That has to be done before COFO because COFO will be the first opportunity for us to discuss the outcome of the work of the Contact Group. We we have had the opportunity to discuss this in COFO it will then go to the Council and we can also ask CCLM and other restricted committees to give comments on the proposals.

The first opportunity is thus COFO. If we open the debate, the one we have had in the ad hoc group now, we could debate it for hours because we have done that already and I would like to remind this audience that the ad hoc group was open-ended. It took a couple of days, and even three days for the subgroup. So, the proposal, not to reopen the debate here but to take the decision that a small group will prepare the necessary matters (size, frequency) for the next COFO meeting. And then Chairman, we must not forget the important work that the Director-General has to undertake, but I hesitate to say more about that.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Avant de passer la parole à tous ceux qui la demandent, je voudrais essayer de synthétiser ce qui a été dit.

Les membres du Conseil souhaitent que des contacts soient pris avec la Banque mondiale, le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, le PNUE et l'ITTO pour obtenir le support complet de ces organisations. Des contacts doivent être pris avec la Banque mondiale, le PNUD, l'ITTO pour obtenir leur support dans l'avenir dans l'esprit que j'ai suffisamment décrit, l'esprit de collaboration entre les organisations.

Dans un autre stade, vous me confiez maintenant le soin d'établir un rapport qui devrait être soumis au prochain COFO et qui serait discuté à ce moment là, sur la dimension, le nombre des réunions, la composition et les termes de référence de ce groupe de travail, étant entendu que, dans tous les documents que nous avons déjà, les termes de référence sont stipulés de manière très claire.

Si nous sommes d'accord sur ce point, il est inutile d'entamer un débat. Si certains pays insistent pour prendre la parole je la leur passe rapidement. Je sais que le Brésil et les Etats-Unis souhaiteraient prendre la parole. Je demanderai qu'il n'y ai pas d'autres inscriptions, sinon la proposition des Philippines n'aurait plus aucun sens.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** Señor Presidente, yo pedi la palabra con el objeto de dar una información y tornar la situación un poco más clara para todos los países miembros del Consejo.

La delegación del Brasil participó ayer en las consultas informales con países de la OCDE y otros países en desarrollo. La delegación del Brasil participó en estas consultas informales como país interesado en la materia.

Todos sabemos el gran interés que tiene el tema para nuestro país. La delegación del Brasil no participó ayer en las consultas con mandato de hablar en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe. La delegación del Brasil participó individualmente, como país interesado.

Creo que era necesario hacer esta aclaración.

**David A. HARCHARIK (United States of America):** I asked for the floor on your clarification because there were many statements made to the effect as to what was agreed to, and who had agreed to those things during ad hoc meetings yesterday, etc. However, certainly with your clarification of a few minutes ago, that FAO would establish contact with the other relevant international organizations, and that you would prepare a report to COFO on the findings of those contacts, which would also address the size and terms of reference, that clarification answered my questions and we are prepared to go along with it.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais compléter ce que vient de dire le représentant des Etats-Unis. La proposition au prochain Conseil serait faite par le canal du Comité des forêts: le COFO.



**Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand):** Yes, I need some clarification. I do not understand what you try to say, but one thing I would remind you, that if this contact point agrees that they will create a contact group within FAO, it is not our business. So you do not need to report to us, at that point. So is my understanding correct?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Les représentants du Canada, du Congo, de la Côte d'Ivoire et de l'Iran ont demandé la parole. Nous nous prononcerons ensuite sur la proposition de M. Carandang, en évitant d'ouvrir le débat. Pour répondre au représentant de la Thaïlande, il est clair que, conformément à ce que je viens de déclarer suite à l'intervention du représentant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, rapport sera fait au prochain COFO qui en référera à la session du Conseil de 1993. Il est donc clair que les compléments d'information seront apportés à la prochaine réunion du Comité des forêts. Cela a été très clairement dit mais il est peut-être utile de le redire.

**David DRAKE (Canada):** My delegation is concerned by the indecision which seems to pervade the entire TFAP process. My delegation has reservations about the proposed process, but we believe that the suggestions made and clarified by you is generally constructive. We agree with the step of contacting the World Bank, the UNDP, UNEP and other possible co-sponsors, with a view to defining the conditions which would engage their full participation in a proposed consultative group. This would then lead to the subsequent step of convening a small group to review the modalities of such a consultative group, with a view to presenting some of the recommendations for discussion in COFO. Let us make a decision, Mr Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je suis tout à fait d'accord en ce qui concerne la procédure sur ce point: les propositions sont faites au COFO, qui en discute, mais ce n'est pas lui qui prend la décision. Le COFO examine la question et transmet les propositions à la prochaine session du Conseil, qui prendra la décision. Il s'agit peut-être d'une nuance juridique mais il était bon de l'apporter.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Monsieur le Président, je crois que, depuis que vous avez fait votre dernier résumé, les choses sont un peu plus claires.

Dans un premier temps, je voulais dire que les propositions sur lesquelles nous nous prononçons actuellement sont celles qui ont été formulées conjointement par le Groupe des 77, par la voix du Représentant de l'Inde, et par l'OCDE, par la voix du représentant des Pays-Bas. M. Carandang a simplement proposé qu'avant le débat, la parole soit donnée aux représentants de ces deux groupes.

Cela étant dit, je crois qu'après plusieurs explications, les choses se sont clarifiées. Je suis donc d'accord avec la proposition que vous venez de faire, il y a quelques minutes.

Dans cette intervention, qui devrait être la dernière que je ferai au sujet du PAFT, je voudrais surtout remercier notre ami, le représentant de Madagascar. Vous l'avez déjà fait mais je dois dire que je l'ai côtoyé et l'ai suivi de très près dans l'accomplissement de sa tâche et qu'il ne serait donc pas inutile de lui exprimer toute notre gratitude pour la gentillesse, le

courage et la bravoure dont il a fait preuve, même lorsqu'il a été malade, pour arriver à ce résultat.

Nous constatons en particulier que, malgré les apparentes contradictions et divergences, ici et là, le rapport de la troisième session du Groupe ad hoc a pu résister à certaines appréciations qui, au départ, n'étaient pas favorables; car, au moins sur trois points, il y a un accord de toutes les parties concernées par le PAFT.

Nous avons noté, par exemple, que le principe de créer le groupe consultatif n'a été mis en cause par aucune partie, chose qui va donc à l'actif des propositions du Groupe ad hoc. Nous avons également constaté que toutes les parties se sont mises d'accord pour que le mandat proposé en septembre 1991 par la Consultation de Paris soit révisé à la lumière des événements nouveaux. Nous constatons aussi qu'au-delà des différentes divergences apparentes, nous sommes d'accord pour que toutes les parties concernées soient représentées au sein du groupe à créer. C'est là un ensemble de points qui font qu'à juste titre, nous devons rendre hommage à M. Rabe, de Madagascar.

Nous constatons également qu'il y a encore du chemin à parcourir et que nous devons tous avoir l'esprit ouvert pour aller de l'avant afin que, dans un temps relativement court, nous puissions trouver des solutions aux autres problèmes qui restent en suspens.

Puisque j'ai la parole, je voudrais lancer un appel à nos amis latino-américains. Nous sommes désolés de constater que, malheureusement, ils n'ont pas été suffisamment associés aux démarches qui ont eu lieu. Je lance donc un appel en direction de ce groupe en leur disant qu'il s'agit peut-être d'un manquement interne de notre Groupe des 77. Je pense, pour l'unité de ce groupe, qu'il est bon que nous envisagions de laver notre linge sale en famille, surtout si nous sommes tous convaincus que, sur le fond, les propositions avancées ici vont dans la bonne direction.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je serai bref. J'ai reçu mission, au nom de tout le Groupe africain, de proposer que, dans le rapport final du Conseil, un hommage particulier soit rendu à notre collègue et ami Raphaël Rabe, Président du Groupe ad hoc sur le Programme d'action forestier tropical. M. Rabe a accompli une tâche très difficile: celle de trouver à chaque fois un consensus entre diverses tendances au sein de ce groupe, et ce pendant plus d'un an. Nous l'avons vu à l'oeuvre. C'est d'abord un technicien expérimenté du secteur forestier car M. Rabe est ingénieur forestier de formation. Il a occupé des fonctions de haute responsabilité dans son pays avant de venir à Rome où, depuis bientôt huit ans, il a toujours fait preuve de compétence, d'équilibre, de savoir-faire, avec des qualités humaines très rares, dont la patience en toutes circonstances. Il est donc tout à fait légitime pour nous de le féliciter à cette occasion car le compromis qui, je pense, vient d'être trouvé est aussi le fruit de son travail inlassable. Nul doute que le Conseil et les Etats Membres auront encore besoin de ses services car les problèmes liés au PAFT vont continuer à mobiliser nos énergies. Nous espérons tous, en juin prochain, parvenir à des résultats définitifs et à l'application effective du programme.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il va de soi que nous rendons tous hommage à M. Rabe.

Nous arrivons au terme de l'examen du point 12 de l'ordre du jour. Je voudrais brièvement donner la parole à M. Hjort, Directeur général adjoint, qui va résumer clairement pour vous la situation.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR- GENERAL:** As I understand it, the Council has decided that: One, FAO member countries should contact their Representatives in the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, ITTO, to ask them to encourage these inter-governmental organizations fully to support the TFAP as a framework for the development of member country national forests.

Two, the Director-General would be encouraged to contact the Heads of the World Bank and the UNDP to ascertain how they could be convinced to become full participants in the Consultative Group and the TFAP.

Three, the Consultative Group will be established under Article VI.5 of FAO's Rules.

Four, the Director-General's proposals as outlined and presented in the document before you with respect to size, frequency of meetings, composition of membership, terms of reference, are generally endorsed.

Finally, the Chairman is empowered by the Council to form a small group to prepare the final decision documents to establish the Consultative Group, which would include giving specific attention to the selection of the initial participants and the process of rotation among those participants.

As I understand it, the final decision document would move through COFO which meets in March 1993 on its way to the June 1993 Council for consideration by this body in its 103rd Session.

I believe that summarizes the points I have heard.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que le représentant des Etats-Unis a une objection en ce qui concerne le point 3.

**David A. HARCHARIK (United States of America):** With great reluctance I do need to raise this point. I realize that some delegations spoke on behalf of point 3, that this group would be established as you have summarized. However, I know that there are many delegations that do not share that, and certainly my delegation does not agree to the establishment of a Consultative Group under this particular article until we see exactly how there will be true partnership of the other co-sponsors.

We also do not agree that there is general concurrence on the size and frequency, etc., of such a body - your point 4.

We do agree with your points 1 and 2, and also points 5 and 6.

To summarize, our position is that countries should be encouraged to contact the World Bank and other international organizations to get their full support. Secondly, the Director-General would ascertain from these organizations how they can become truly full partners and participate, and in what mechanism they can do so, and that based on those contacts and

discussions the Chairman would prepare a report summarizing that and present it to COFO for consideration. We reserve our right to favour the Consultative Group and its size, etc., based on the result of that dialogue which we feel must take place.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons décidé de ne pas prendre de décision, et les différents points constituent un résumé. La décision sera prise par l'intermédiaire du COFO en 1993. Tous les pays qui le désirent peuvent réserver leur position; on ne leur demande pas de prendre de décision à ce stade.

**David DRAKE (Canada):** Thank you for your clarification, Mr Chairman. I should just like to make it clear that my country fully supports the interpretation the United States has just made.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I think that with the help of the Drafting Committee we can find a solution for the points raised by the United States and Canada, because it is the position of many other delegations also that to establish a Consultative Group on Article VI. 5 is only helpful for the whole process when we have the full support of the other co-sponsors.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brésil):** La délégation brésilienne voudrait exprimer son accord avec les propositions qui viennent d'être résumées par le Directeur général adjoint. D'une façon générale, elles nous semblent acceptables. Nous croyons qu'elles sont constructives et que, de toutes façons, le moment n'est pas encore mûr pour prendre une décision à cette session du Conseil de la FAO.

Nous voudrions seulement faire un commentaire, à savoir qu'il est très important pour nous, le Brésil, que ce groupe consultatif soit créé en vertu de l'article VI.5 de l'Acte constitutif. Nous estimons, en effet, que l'idée d'utiliser les Textes fondamentaux de la FAO est décisive.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que la déclaration du représentant du Brésil est très sage. Elle rejoint d'ailleurs celle du représentant de l'Inde. Nous sommes d'accord qu'il ne peut s'agir que d'un organisme indépendant et, si tel est le cas, il doit être créé en dehors de cette enceinte; j'ai parlé de n'importe quel endroit à Rome, n'importe quel hôtel, n'importe quelle colline, mais certainement pas dans ce cadre. Il me semble que nous sommes bien d'accord sur ce point.

Nous enregistrons la réserve faite par le représentant des Etats-Unis. Je ne crois pas qu'il nous faille décider à ce stade, puisque nous allons suivre un processus évolutif. Nous avons entendu différents points de vue, y compris certaines réserves émises par les représentants du Canada et des Etats-Unis.

Il appartiendra, compte tenu de certaines propositions que je m'efforcerai de faire, au prochain COFO d'élaborer des propositions concrètes et précises de façon à ce que le Conseil de juin 1993 prenne la décision, puisqu'aujourd'hui nous avons décidé de ne pas décider - ceci est important. Nous ne prenons pas de décision. Nous avons écouté l'ensemble des interventions. Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint a fait un excellent résumé, nous enregistrons toutes

les positions. Tout cela sera consigné dans le rapport et constituera un élément important en prévision de la prochaine session du Comité des forêts qui en référera au Conseil.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** Mr Chairman, as you have stated, since the subject has been so fully discussed we do not need more discussion. I think that the proposals just made by the delegates of the Philippines, India and the Netherlands are so close to each other, and on behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran I should like fully to support the summary just made by the Deputy Director-General, Mr Hjort. We believe that this Consultative Group should be established under Article VI.5 inside FAO, not outside FAO, and not independent.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Simply a clarification: I was asked to try to summarize, and I listened very carefully when the Council seemed to have unanimously concluded that the Consultative Group would not be an independent body. That is why I said it would be established under Article VI. 5. I recall the Chairman of the Group of 77 reporting on the meeting where this matter had been discussed at an early stage, and that there was clear agreement that it would not be an independent body. That is why I mentioned Article VI. 5. I just wanted to clarify that point, and the reason.

Further, I understood several people to say that there was agreement on the Director-General's views with respect to size, frequency of meetings and composition, not in terms of details of who would be there, but roughly the division in paragraph 13 is what I understood it to mean. If I misunderstood that, I apologize, but that is what I heard.

I did not hear, until the last intervention from the United States, that there was a lack of agreement with respect to the size, composition and frequency of meetings, or even the terms of reference. That is why I summarized it in that way. These are matters that Mr Drake can take care of later.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le Directeur général adjoint de sa dernière déclaration. Je remercie M. Carandang de sa proposition et vous propose de clore notre débat sur la seconde partie du point 12 qui concernait plus spécifiquement le Plan d'action forestier tropical.

Je répète une fois de plus que nous n'avons pas à discuter de la création d'un organisme indépendant parce que l'on peut le créer n'importe où, mais que dans le cadre de ce qui a été bien explicité par M. Hjort, nous allons poursuivre nos travaux et en soumettre les conclusions au COFO qui en référera au prochain Conseil.

Il n'y a plus d'interventions et nous déclarons donc close la discussion du point 12. Je vous remercie.

#### 14. Financial Position of the Organization

#### 14. Situation financière de l'Organisation

#### 14. Situación financiera de la Organización

14.1 Status of Contributions

14.1 Etat des contributions

14.1 Estado de las cuotas

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer au point 14 qui a été reporté ce matin et qui est en étroite liaison avec le point 13.

Ce point 14 concerne la situation financière de l'Organisation. Nous allons d'abord examiner l'état des contributions. Nous avons devant nous le document CL 102/4 en ses paragraphes 2.15 à 2.54, le document CL 102/17, paragraphes 3.13 à 3.36 et le document CL 102/LIM/1, document tout à fait récent qui présente l'état de versement des contributions ordinaires tel qu'il se présente à ce jour.

A la suite de la discussion du point 14 nous passerons à l'examen des rapports du Comité financier. J'en profite pour saluer la présence de notre excellent ami, le Président du Comité financier, Son Excellence Carlos di Mottola qui rehausse notre réunion de sa présence. Je le remercie d'avoir bien voulu accepter d'assister à la discussion des points concernant la situation financière de l'Organisation ainsi que les rapports des deux sessions du Comité financier. Son intervention sera certainement extrêmement utile.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** Mr Chairman, the report of the 74th Session of the Finance Committee deals in paragraphs 3.1.3 to 3.2.3 with the contribution situation of the Organization, as at 14 September 1992. Document 91 LIM/1 has been prepared in order to provide the Council with an update on the position as at 4th November 1992. Mr Chairman, I should like briefly to highlight certain information in the document for your convenience and to offer some comments.

Paragraph 3 showed the amounts outstanding and received at various dates and indicates that at 4th November unpaid assessed contributions totalled over US\$157 million. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the paper enabled a comparison of the rate of receipt of current contributions on a month-by-month basis during the last five years. They also indicate how many Member Nations have paid their current assessments in full, in part or not at all, and the number who are in arrears.

Mr Chairman, you will note the date of receipt of current contributions is about 89 percent. Despite the high percentage of current assessments collected, paragraph 5 shows that the number of Member Nations who have made no payment during the year has increased to 88. This is over half of the membership and is the highest number for the last four years. In fact, you will see 109 Member Nations have made no payment, or only partial payment, for 1992's assessed contributions and 70 Member Nations still owe arrears for 1991 and earlier years.

Mr Chairman, this situation was also commented on by the Finance Committee at its last Session when it expressed concern and noted that the number of Member Nations who had made no payment towards the current assessment had steadily increased over the last five years.

The shortage of funds to meet our expenses, the continuing uncertainty about the availability of funds and the unremitting precariousness of the financial

situation of FAO all combine to make efficient management of the Organization extremely difficult. In this connection, as the Director-General noted in his opening address, the Organization was compelled to draw advances from the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account of 39 million dollars to meet disbursements in October and early November.

Mr Chairman, as has been emphasized repeatedly by the Director-General, the only overall solution to the financial problems of the Organization rests with the fulfilment by Member Nations of their statutory obligations and, as you know, the currently accepted regulation is that Member Nations should pay their dues during the month following notification by the Director-General of their dues. In this respect, Mr Chairman, may I through you appeal to the Member Nations to pay their current assessments and arrears, to inform the Secretariat of the approximate timing of their payments, and this will then facilitate our financial planning and management?

Mr Chairman, perhaps I should stop here, and my colleagues and I will be pleased to answer any questions the Council may have.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je demanderai aux membres du Conseil qui désirent prendre la parole sur ce point de s'inscrire. Les pays suivants souhaitent intervenir: Philippines, Congo, France, Madagascar, Egypte, Japon, Chine, Etats-Unis, Canada, Royaume-Uni, Arabie Saoudite.

Y a-t-il des observateurs qui désirent s'inscrire? Il n'y a pas. Je donne la parole aux Philippines.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** The Philippines delegation notes with satisfaction the improvement in the collection rate of current assessments. According to document CL 102 LIM/1, 89 percent of current assessments have been paid as at 4th November 1992 compared to 79 percent as of 13th November 1991. The level of arrears has also been substantially reduced. In this connection we note with appreciation the several payments made by the largest contributor.

Mr Chairman, in spite of the many problems presently confronting the Philippines, because of adverse economic conditions and a number of natural calamities already referred to by our delegation on various occasions, the Philippines delegation is exerting its best efforts to pay its current assessment and reduce its arrears.

The Philippines delegation supports the appeal in paragraph 11 of LIM/1 urging all Members to pay the outstanding arrears and assessed contributions for the current year as soon as possible in full. For FAO to fulfil its mandate it has to receive the means to do so; that means the contributions of all Members. These payments, whether current or arrears, are to be credited to the General Fund from which this Organization can make its payments in accordance with its programme and priorities established by the Governing Bodies and by the financial rules of the Organization. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous vous remercions tout spécialement pour votre déclaration. Les Philippines ont toujours été un pays très scrupuleux quant au paiement de leur contribution. Nous les en félicitons. Nous comprenons parfaitement,

compte tenu des épreuves que ce pays a connues, la situation telle qu'elle se présente.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Comme nous l'avons dit dans notre première intervention au cours de cette session du Conseil, la situation financière du Congo en tant que membre de la FAO, n'est pas à jour, et ce, pour des raisons de crise financière propre à plusieurs pays en développement, crise ressentie partout.

Nous espérons que notre économie connaîtra des jours meilleurs afin que nous puissions dès que possible, comme nous l'avons fait par le passé, nous acquitter de nos obligations financières de membres de la FAO.

Au delà de cette situation financière particulière qui nous concerne, et qui est donc indépendante de notre bon vouloir, nous aimerions aussi dire quelques mots à l'occasion de l'examen et du débat du sujet à l'ordre du jour: la situation financière de notre organisation, la FAO.

En l'absence de toute évolution significative de la situation financière de l'Organisation entre la 73ème et la 74ème session du Comité financier, et compte tenu du fait que le rapport de la dernière session reprend en compte les résultats et résolutions de la précédente, pour éviter de nous répéter et donc de perdre du temps, nous aborderons les paragraphes pertinents de ces rapports, surtout du rapport de la deuxième session, de façon brève.

Ainsi, à la lecture du paragraphes 3.14 et 3.16 du document CL 102/17, nous restons préoccupés de constater que le taux de recouvrement des contributions est amélioré mais que le nombre des Etats Membres n'ayant rien versé pendant les 9 derniers mois de l'année en cours s'est accru.

Par ailleurs, comme nous l'avons déjà dit au cours de cette session, nous nous félicitons du nouvel élan pris par le plus grand bailleur de fonds de la FAO pour s'acquitter de ses arriérés de contributions.

Pour tous ceux qui sont en retard, dont nous-mêmes, nous nous associons à l'appel renouvelé de la direction pour qu'ils s'acquittent de leurs obligations financières.

Enfin, nous voudrions dire quelques mots à propos du plan d'incitation au paiement rapide des contributions. Ce point est abordé dans les deux documents des deux sessions du Comité. En effet, sans être opposés à l'idée de la mise en oeuvre d'un Plan d'incitation de paiement rapide, nous sommes cependant de l'avis de ceux qui pensent que les sanctions existantes, la perte des droits en particulier, sont suffisantes et que l'Organisation doit se montrer très prudente dans l'adoption de toute nouvelle sanction, compte tenu du fait que les pays en voie de développement connaissent également des difficultés économiques graves qui pourraient être aggravées par des nouvelles sanctions.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué du Congo. La seconde partie de son intervention fera l'objet d'une discussion dans le cadre du point 13. Pour le moment, nous examinons le point 14: état des contributions.



**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Comme mon collègue du Congo je suis obligé de lier les deux points évoqués.

La délégation française se réjouit de relever que des tendances positives se dégagent en ce qui concerne les travaux de l'Organisation confrontée depuis quelques années à une grave crise financière. Elle se réjouit d'autant plus qu'elle est attachée au caractère universel de l'Organisation.

Certains pays comme la France ont toujours considéré que le versement de sa contribution était une obligation et qu'elle devait s'en acquitter dans les délais voulus; d'autres ont été confrontés à des difficultés financières qui malheureusement ne leur ont pas permis de s'acquitter à temps de leurs engagements. D'autres enfin avaient voulu manifester un souhait d'évolution de l'Organisation en retenant leur contribution.

Aujourd'hui nous nous réjouissons de voir que nous commençons à sortir de ce climat de crise qui gênait le fonctionnement de la principale institution spécialisée des Nations Unies. Le document CL 102/LIM/1 nous informe que près de 315 millions de dollars ont été recouvrés au 4 novembre 1992 soit 90 pour cent environ du budget annuel, et le montant des arriérés des contributions "ne s'élève plus" si je puis m'exprimer ainsi, qu'à 158 millions de dollars, soit un déficit de trésorerie qui revient à la moitié du budget annuel.

Il faut espérer que ce mouvement positif se poursuivra car par rapport à "de fausses solutions" le paiement des contributions obligatoires est bien la meilleure méthode de financement de l'Organisation. Défions-nous tout d'abord des solutions qui consisteraient à ne financer le développement des activités de l'OAA que par des contributions volontaires ou négociées. Si celles-ci peuvent apporter des ressources additionnelles, elles ne peuvent constituer l'essentiel du financement; faute de quoi l'OAA deviendrait une organisation de participation "à la carte", perdant par là même progressivement son caractère d'universalité. Défions nous ensuite de l'application aveugle de concepts trop fermés comme celui de "croissance réelle zéro". Certes lorsque ce concept implique une volonté de maîtrise des coûts et des dépenses improductives nous ne pouvons que marquer notre accord; mais non lorsqu'il s'agit de bloquer l'avancée d'une institution vers la réponse aux défis de l'heure. Au demeurant, c'est aussi dans la recherche d'un contrôle plus effectif des dépenses au sein du Comité Financier et du Comité des Programmes - et ceci dans le contexte général d'une meilleure coordination du système des Nations Unies - que nous devrions faire porter nos efforts en nous assurant que l'OAA reste bien dans le cadre de son mandat.

Défions-nous enfin d'une trop grande tolérance à l'égard de ceux qui ne paient pas leurs contributions lesquelles sont d'ailleurs "obligatoires" d'après les statuts. Sans doute devrions nous réfléchir au delà des mesures d'incitation au paiement précoce de ces contributions qui seront mises en place dès le début de 1993 à un système de pénalités en établissant des bases de comparaison avec les mesures prises par les autres agences des Nations Unies. Nous considérons que les retards de paiement constituent une faute à l'égard de l'Organisation et du système des Nations Unies et une faute qui ne doit pas bénéficier à leurs auteurs. De là découlent plusieurs conséquences: on pourrait imaginer une application effective des sanctions aux mauvais payeurs, avec notamment retrait effectif du droit de vote après deux années de non paiement des contributions et l'obligation pour eux de payer les intérêts en proportion du service de la dette de l'Organisation que leur attitude a conduit à créer.

S'agissant enfin des mécanismes destinés à se protéger des variations des taux de change, la délégation française souhaiterait que l'Organisation prenne les dispositions que les autres organismes du système des Nations Unies appliquent déjà à leur plus grand bénéfice telles que l'achat à terme de devises ou la mise en place d'un système comptable fondé sur plusieurs monnaies.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de France de son importante déclaration. Comme vous le savez, j'ai toujours eu horreur de l'expression "croissance zéro", étant donné que c'est une contradiction même dans les termes. En français, la croissance zéro c'est la non croissance. Ceux qui défendent la maîtrise des coûts devraient trouver une autre expression.

**Gualbert RAZANAJATOVO (Madagascar):** Comme mes collègues du Congo et de la France je vous prie de m'excuser car je suis obligé de faire une liaison entre les deux points.

L'intervention de Madagascar sur ce point important de notre ordre du jour se base sur les documents pertinents produits par le Secrétariat, mais aussi et surtout sur la déclaration d'ouverture du Directeur général.

En effet, dans son discours, il a traité de cette question avec la clarté et le pragmatisme requis, aussi, nous contenterons-nous d'en reprendre les points saillants.

La situation financière de l'Organisation, sans être critique, continue à être tendue. Elle ne permet pas à la fois de répondre de manière efficace aux nombreuses demandes formulées par les P.V.D.

Le document CL 102/13, très clair et très explicite, nous donne les différentes réductions opérées sur les programmes et sous-programmes, et nous informe sur les suppressions et reports d'activités. L'impact négatif de ces mesures est difficile à évaluer, mais nous sommes certains qu'elles retarderont dangereusement la mise en oeuvre de projets prioritaires dans nos pays.

Nous regrettons particulièrement: - le report d'activités sur la production, et l'amélioration des semences; - la réduction importante de l'assistance aux services nationaux de protection des plantes et végétaux; - la réduction du programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire; - la réduction de l'assistance apportée aux PVD pour l'amélioration de leurs systèmes statistiques nationaux; - la réduction des services techniques fournis à la commission des ressources phytogénétiques; - la suspension des activités sur le bois de feu.

Cette situation ne peut qu'être déplorée dès lors que le budget 1991-1993 représente, comme l'indique le Directeur général, le fruit d'un compromis sans précédent. En fait ledit budget accuse une réduction de 4.6 pour cent par rapport à celui de 1990-1991.

Monsieur le Président, nous ne perdons pas l'espoir de voir la situation s'améliorer rapidement et d'une manière définitive et permanente car le principal bailleur de fonds, nous apprend-on, a commencé à régler ses arriérés et vient d'honorer ses contributions au titre de l'année 1992.

En ce qui concerne Madagascar, malgré les difficultés économiques et financières que nous connaissons, le Gouvernement malgache a décidé de faire un geste pour marquer son soutien à l'Organisation, et la priorité qu'il accorde pour faire face à ses obligations statutaires. Il ne manquera pas de régler ses arriérés dès que possible.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate, the delegation of my country, having considered document 102/LIM/1 which covers the financial situation of FAO, would like to express its full satisfaction at the financial situation as it is shown in paragraph 1 on the first and second pages of this document and in paragraph 6 where we find that receipts in 1992 were substantially higher than those at the same date in 1991.

My country emphasizes the importance of paying its contribution to FAO on time. It hopes that all countries will pay their dues for this year in order that FAO will be able to fulfil its mission in the field of food and agriculture.

**Haruo ISHII (Japan):** Thank you for giving me the floor on this important agenda item. First of all, with regard to payment of the contribution, Japan takes the position that Member Nations should pay their contribution to the budget of the UN and its specialist agencies as early as possible as a duty. However, because Member Nations have domestic hurdles which they must overcome before they pay their own contribution, it cannot be denied that there is some possibility for delay in payment. Therefore, it is necessary for FAO to deliver its budget along with the Financial Plan which will be based on the past trend of payment.

Japan has endeavoured and is ready to pay its contribution completely to the extent possible after the national budget is adopted in the National Diet but there are some problems, such as the different fiscal years between the UN system and our own, an unfavourable exchange rate and so on.

Secondly, with regard to our contribution this year, at about the end of May the exchange rate of the Japan yen to the US dollar became unfavourable. This was the first opportunity after the national budget was adopted.

We did not fail to take the opportunity and paid our contribution fully, including Working Capital Fund and Special Reserve Account, on 4 June. Japan expects that its effort will be a good help towards mitigating the financial difficulties of FAO.

Finally, I should like to touch briefly on internal and external borrowing. Japan is fully aware that the arrears problem is crucial and that to solve this problem is urgent and indispensable for our Organization. However, FAO should not depend upon either internal or external borrowing, as Japan has insisted since FAO began them.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant du Japon. Je crois qu'il a un peu diminué les mérites de son pays parce que nous devons féliciter le Japon d'avoir pour la première fois payé ses contributions au mois de mai. Je suppose que ce n'est pas uniquement à cause du cours favorable du yen par

rapport au dollar. C'est également, avant la Conférence de Rio, pour marquer le désir du Japon de jouer un rôle important dans le cadre de la coopération internationale. Vous avez donc peut être diminué les mérites de votre pays. Ces mérites restent grands. Le Japon, qui a une année fiscale différente des autres pays, a fait un effort particulier pour payer sa contribution au mois de mai, ce qui a d'ailleurs sur le plan de la trésorerie sauvé l'Organisation, qui eut été contrainte de contracter des emprunts beaucoup plus importants que les très modestes emprunts qu'elle a été acculée à devoir contracter. Je vous remercie de votre déclaration. Mais je suis convaincu que pour l'avenir il est important que non seulement les membres paient leurs contributions, mais également que le Secrétariat puisse savoir quand les contributions seront payées, parce qu'il n'y a pas une politique de trésorerie possible sans avoir une connaissance précise des dates de versement des contributions. C'est un problème particulièrement important sur le plan d'une saine gestion de la trésorerie.

**ZHENG BO (China) (Original language Chinese):** I should like to make a few comments relative to the status of contributions to the Organization. Over the last few years the recovery of outstanding contributions has been far from satisfactory. The situation is still rather critical this year, despite a certain improvement in the situation in comparison with last year. The total amount of arrears on 4 November 1992 was still US\$157 million. The situation is not that brilliant as regards payments to the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account. In order to maintain its normal rate of operations, FAO was obliged to make recourse to loans. It is quite clear that such a situation has had an effect not only on the implementation of the ordinary programme but also on the interests of Member States in general, and the developing countries in particular.

I do not think it is necessary to say that the Chinese Government is concerned about the situation. My country paid its assessed contribution on time, and we would hope that all other countries would pay their contributions pursuant to, and in compliance with, the rules of the Organization - that is, in due time - so that the ordinary programme as approved by the Conference of this Organization could be executed without any hitches.

We have taken due note of the plan formulated by the Director-General to encourage countries to pay their contributions on time. That plan, without necessarily being ideal, and while waiting for a better solution to be found, could to a certain extent serve as an incentive to countries to ensure prompt payment of their assessed contributions. We would therefore like to voice our support in that regard.

**Gerald J. MONROE (United States of America):** As alluded to by several speakers and by the representative of the Secretariat, the United States is pleased to report that the consensus decision-making process last year establishing the 1992-93 budget made it possible for us to contribute US\$79.1 million recently towards our calendar year 1992 assessment to FAO. This amount represents essentially full funding of our assessment and also represents one of the larger regular assessments which the United States pays.

In addition, as has also been mentioned, we have taken steps to reduce our arrears over the past two years. During that period we have paid to FAO approximately US\$36.3 million towards arrears. Of this amount, US\$22.6 million

was paid in 1992. We also plan to make an additional significant arrearage payment in 1993.

Despite the budgetary constraints we are facing, which no one can reasonably expect to disappear in the short-term in the years ahead, the United States is committed to ensuring that FAO is given adequate resources to carry out its vitally important programmes. We note, however, that some 88 Member States - well over half the membership - have made no payment to FAO as of November. We hope these members will be in a position shortly to pay their contributions, but we believe that the Organization and this Council must be aware of the implications of this situation for budget policy.

With regard to FAO's improved cash-flow situation, which dates back from the preceding calendar year, we would have hoped that the substantially increased contributions received both towards the budget and FAO's reserves over the past 12 months would have obviated the need for external borrowing. As we have stated many times in Council meetings and other FAO fora, the United States opposes external borrowing and US law prohibits us from paying any share of the interest costs. In time external borrowing, in our judgement, undercuts budgetary and planning restraint, which we expect all international organizations to exercise.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ce qui concerne les emprunts extérieurs, le Directeur général a été contraint d'emprunter pour la bonne raison que la trésorerie ne permettait plus à l'Organisation de faire face à ses obligations. Il en a le droit. Cela a été clairement décidé par les instances responsables de la FAO. Je ne vois d'ailleurs pas très bien comment il aurait pu agir différemment, je crois qu'il faut quand même signaler que les obligations internationales dans le monde entier prévalent sur les législations nationales. C'est là un point extrêmement important. Il n'y a pas de coordination internationale possible si les législations nationales dérogent aux règlements et principes internationaux.

**Gerald J. MONROE (United States of America):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for your remarks, but let me repeat to the Council, so there is no misunderstanding, that the remarks I made represent the firm conviction of the United States Government with respect to our position towards borrowing.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous connaissons cette prise de position mais je répète que les organes responsables de la FAO ont donné le pouvoir au Directeur général de contracter des emprunts lorsqu'aucune autre possibilité ne se présentait, ce qui fut le cas.

**Yvan JOBIN (Canada):** My delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for its update and to join other delegations in expressing appreciation for recent payments made to the Organization, especially by the largest contributor. Although these payments come late in the year, they alleviate the financial difficulties which FAO might have experienced. Indeed, we would expect that it will permit the Secretariat to address the question of reinstating some of the activities detailed in the Director-General's progress report on the Programme of Work and Budget as having been delayed. We look forward to hearing the Secretariat's plans in this regard.

The Canadian position on late payment of contributions has been clearly stated in various FAO fora. At the same time, we understand the serious problems caused to the Organization because of unpaid assessments and arrears. These problems can only be avoided if all - and we stress all - members accept their responsibility by providing the resources necessary to implement the programmes they have asked the Organization to undertake. In the absence of anticipated inflows, we believe that the Organization can only act to adjust its programmes to reflect the level of resources which are made effectively available.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier M. Mehboob, qui a bien voulu présenter les documents relatifs à la situation financière de la FAO, de son brillant exposé.

La délégation du Liban a l'honneur d'annoncer devant cet auguste Conseil que le Gouvernement libanais, au début de cette année, a versé les contributions qu'il devait à la FAO, et ce, en dépit des difficultés auxquelles il a été confronté au cours de ces dernières années et dont les séquelles sont toujours présentes.

Le Liban a payé ses contributions en dépit également de la baisse du taux de change de la lire libanaise par rapport aux différentes devises et surtout au dollar des Etats-Unis, car il est convaincu que la FAO doit recouvrer les contributions qui lui sont dues afin d'exécuter en temps voulu ses programmes.

Nous avons pris connaissance avec grande satisfaction du document CL 102/LIM/1 relatif à la situation financière de l'Organisation au 4.11.1992, de même que l'annonce par le Directeur général, dans sa déclaration liminaire, du règlement par le plus grand contributeur de sa contribution pour l'année 1992, ce qui a permis à l'Organisation de traverser de façon heureuse la période critique actuelle.

Nous accueillons également très favorablement l'annonce du paiement des contributions de différents pays membres qui a permis à la FAO d'éviter l'endettement, du moins pour le moment. Nous espérons, à cette occasion, que d'autres pays suivront l'exemple de ceux qui ont payé leurs contributions en suivant la règle qui consiste à payer les contributions au moment où elles sont dues.

**Ms Susan BASSETT (United Kingdom):** My intervention can be extremely brief. As was said in the introduction, paragraph 10 of document CL 102/LIM/1 says, "109 Member Nations have made no payment or only partial payment of 1992 assessed contributions, and 70 Member Nations still owe arrears for 1991 and prior years."

This is a reflection of the difficult financial circumstances in which all Member Nations find themselves. This should be borne in mind in setting the level of the budget for the next biennium. It is simply not logical to set a budget at a level whereby assessments on Member Nations become an impossible burden which they simply cannot carry.

The UN Scale of Assessments is set to ensure an equal burden sharing, bearing in mind ability to pay. The burden for those countries paying 0.001 percent

is as heavy as those paying 25 percent. This must be accepted. The burden sharing is equal and so too is the responsibility to meet assessed contributions.

My delegation would urge all - and I repeat all - Member Nations to meet their assessed contributions. We would also urge the Director-General to bear in mind the current pattern of receipts and the financial pressures countries when formulating the budget level for the next biennium.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je ne doute pas que le Directeur général ait toujours fait ce que vous avez mentionné dans la dernière partie de votre intervention. Je vous remercie pour celle-ci.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** We would like to thank Mr Mehboob for his excellent introduction to these documents.

It appears from these documents that there is a significant improvement in the payment of assessed contributions. This is due to the increased interest of member countries in FAO and its activities.

We welcome with great satisfaction the different incentives of member countries, or encouragement given to them to pay promptly.

I would say that we support the contents of paragraph 3.35, and in particular the strengthening of disciplinary measures. They should be severe. We are convinced that present conditions are ripe and appropriate and that there is no need to take new punitive measures into account. It is just a matter of encouraging Member Nations to pay promptly a little more. Nevertheless, the matter could be looked at again once the results of this discount scheme have been tried out for a while.

So far as external borrowing is concerned, we are happy to see that the Director-General is going to endeavour to avoid having recourse to borrowing. Nevertheless, we are convinced that from time to time it may well happen that it becomes necessary for him to borrow, especially since certain fixed chapters of the budget cannot be reduced any more than they already have.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que le Directeur général a toujours évité de contracter des emprunts extérieurs. Ce n'est que contraint et forcé qu'il a parfois été obligé de le faire.

**Mansur M. SEGHAHER (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** I should like to begin by thanking Mr Mehboob for the excellent introduction he gave to the document giving the financial position with the Organization.

We perfectly understand that certain countries pay their assessed contributions late. My country's delegation would like to inform the Council that our Government has taken the necessary steps to ensure that the assessed contributions due to the Organization be paid, and this despite the economic difficulties my country is tackling as a result of the blockade that has been imposed upon it.

We would like to reaffirm that the payment of our contribution will be made very shortly indeed.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué de la Libye de l'engagement qu'il vient de prendre.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Ce point de l'ordre du jour a trait au rapport de la soixante-quatorzième session du Comité financier et je crois qu'il s'est glissé une petite erreur dans la version française du document qui, au paragraphe 1, parle de la soixante-quatrième session.

Le Maroc étant membre du Comité financier, nous souscrivons entièrement à tous les paragraphes et à toutes les remarques pertinentes qui figurent dans ce document. Nous remercions également M. Mehboob pour l'introduction de ce point. Une question très sensible sur laquelle nous revenons chaque fois que nous nous réunissons au Conseil, au Comité financier, à la Conférence, c'est d'inviter les Etats Membres en retard dans le paiement de leurs contributions à le faire dans les meilleurs délais. Nous sommes conscients du fait qu'un grand nombre de pays traversent des difficultés économiques importantes, graves pour certains, mais le règlement des contributions à la FAO permet à celle-ci de mener sa tâche à bien.

Dans le domaine de la pêche durable, par exemple, nous avons demandé au Secrétariat de la FAO de faire un certain nombre de choses. Nous lui avons demandé de préparer le code de conduite, d'inclure dans le Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain biennium et dans le Plan à moyen terme toutes les mesures d'application pour un code international de conduite. Egalement, lorsque nous avons parlé du développement durable, nous avons demandé au Secrétariat de la FAO de suivre les résultats de la CNUED et d'essayer d'appliquer dans ses programmes tous les chapitres du Programme "Action 21" applicable à la FAO. Donc, à chaque réunion du Conseil, nous demandons à la FAO de faire un certain nombre de choses qu'elle n'est malheureusement pas toujours en mesure de réaliser car sa situation financière ne le lui permet pas.

Nous avons entendu parler, au cours de ce débat, de mesures d'incitation, de sanctions. Nous aurons l'occasion de revenir là-dessus. Mais, pour notre part, nous continuons à penser qu'un plan d'incitation doit être accompagné d'un plan de "sanctions" - je mets le terme "sanctions" entre guillemets parce qu'il n'est peut-être pas tout à fait approprié - et cela non pas parce que nous ne voulons pas tenir compte de la situation économique dont nous avons parlé au début, mais parce que nous pensons que, pour que l'Organisation puisse continuer à assurer ses programmes pour nos pays, nous devons verser nos contributions dans les meilleurs délais.

**Shahid RASHID (Pakistan):** It gives me pleasure to report to the Council that the Government of Pakistan has deposited the entire balance relating to the current assessment, as well as its share towards a special reserve account and the working capital fund. Since Pakistan had already paid its arrears relating to the prior assessments, the outstanding balance against my country now stands as nil.



**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Sólo deseamos, Sr. Presidente, manifestar en este tema nuestro apoyo y solidaridad a la Dirección General porque comprendemos lo difícil que es administrar y ejecutar mandatos sin recursos. Por ello, México siempre ha expresado su punto de vista sobre el cumplimiento que se debe dar a los compromisos financieros contraídos con la Organización.

Por nuestra parte, estamos a punto de concluir cuestiones administrativas y, a la brevedad posible, México cubrirá su cuota como debe.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** There were no particular questions, but I should like to offer some additional comments on one or two points. Mention was made of forward purchase of currencies and the use of a basket of currencies for our budgeting and accounting purposes.

I am pleased to inform the Council that we are already involved with the forward purchase of currency requirements. In fact, we brought forward all our lire requirements for the whole biennium. This was one mechanism by which we protected our budget.

As for the use of the basket of currencies, sometime back the IMF and UNDP did a detailed study to see whether it was practical to budget in multi-currencies, as it were. The conclusion was that it would not be appropriate to use a basket of currencies for budgeting unless it were system-wide. The IMF itself uses dollars for its budgeting and accounting purposes.

Reference was made to borrowing. I think the Director-General has quite often here, in the Council or in the Conference, said that he does not like to borrow, but each time he authorized borrowing he has been compelled to do so because of the late receipt of contributions, and of course it has always been done in accordance with the Conference Resolutions.

I should like to thank some of the countries who have stated that they will be paying their contributions shortly. Perhaps I could again request them to inform us of the timing so that we take it into account in our financial planning.

Finally, I should like to confirm that we have received the contribution of Pakistan today, and we will be adjusting our records accordingly.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement M. Mehboob, Sous-Directeur général, des réponses qu'il vient d'apporter. Ce point a été examiné de manière complète mais nous voudrions, en terminant, faire un appel vibrant à tous les pays qui ont des arriérés de contribution, afin qu'ils combler ce retard le plus rapidement possible. Dans certains pays il y a d'incontestables difficultés financières, dans d'autres pays il y a parfois une certaine négligence ainsi que des difficultés administratives inhérentes, malheureusement, à tous les systèmes administratifs. Nous réitérons donc notre appel afin que tous les pays concernés honorent leur contribution et arriérés de contribution.

Je pense que nous avons procédé à un examen complet du point 14 concernant la situation financière de l'Organisation. Je voudrais tout de même souligner

l'importance de la "prévisibilité" des versements car en matière de gestion de trésorerie, il est essentiel pour l'Organisation d'avoir une idée précise de la date de versement des contributions. On a parlé d'ajustement des programmes. L'Organisation est tenue d'exécuter le Programme de travail et de budget tel qu'il est voté par les conférences mais, pour pouvoir travailler dans de bonnes conditions, il est indispensable d'avoir une saine politique de gestion de la trésorerie et, de ce fait, de savoir quand les versements pourront être effectués.

13. Reports of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Sessions of the Finance Committee

13. Rapports des soixante-treizième et soixante-quatorzième sessions du Comité financier

13. Informes de los periodos de sesiones 73° y 74° del Comité de Finanzas

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer au dernier point de notre ordre du jour de la dixième séance plénière à savoir les rapports des soixante-treizième et soixante-quatorzième sessions du Comité financier.

Je voudrais faire une petite remarque, c'est que dans le cadre de l'examen d'un certain nombre de points importants par le Comité financier, nous avons tous les rapports d'audit qui seront étudiés à l'occasion du point 15 de notre ordre du jour; il s'agit des comptes vérifiés du Programme ordinaire, du PNUD et du Programme alimentaire, y compris certains commentaires sur le système FINSYS PERSYS. Il serait préférable que la discussion des comptes vérifiés et du FINSYS PERSYS se fasse sous le point 15 de l'ordre du jour et non pas dans le cadre de la discussion des rapports du Comité financier.

**Carlos DI MOTTOIA BALESTRA (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas):** Agradezco al Sr. Presidente del Consejo sus amables palabras de saludo. Yo también quiero saludarle a él y a todo el Consejo muy atentamente.

Tengo el placer de resumir para ustedes los informes del 73° y 74° periodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas que figuran en los documentos CL 102/4 y CL 102/17. Ya han recibido ustedes un informe sobre la situación financiera de la Organización, así que para ahorrar tiempo, limitaré mis comentarios a los debates y conclusiones del Comité acerca de los cuales el Consejo debe tomar una decisión o formular recomendaciones a la Conferencia. No voy a tocar todos los otros puntos que son puramente comentarios.

El 73° período de sesiones se celebró del 6 al 13 de mayo de 1992.

Comenzaré con asuntos financieros. Recordarán ustedes que para estimular el pago puntual de la cuota la Conferencia decidió en su 26° período de sesiones que la Organización ensayara un plan de descuentos con carácter experimental. Esto lo puede reasegurar el delegado del Congo sobre las observaciones que hizo en el debate anterior porque no quería que hubiera nada de castigador y estas ideas fueron también examinadas durante el período del Comité de Finanzas. Se vio que hay dos organizaciones en Ginebra que practican un interés apenas vence el plazo establecido. Sin embargo, se acordó que no haya nada de todo esto. Este plan de descuento va a tener un carácter experimental. En el momento no se decidió fecha alguna para introducir el carácter experimental. El Consejo tuvo que debatir varias propuestas sobre la fecha en

la que se podría empezar con este plan de descuento. Eso es una solución adecuada para dar a los miembros la oportunidad de si desean participar en el plan y se estableció notificar oficialmente a todos los miembros la fecha propuesta por el Comité. La fecha apropiada nos pareció ser el 1° de enero de 1993.

El Comité, este es otro punto, examinó asimismo los mecanismos alternativos para proteger el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de fluctuaciones en el tipo de cambio. Como parte del estudio examinó una sinopsis de los distintos mecanismos aplicados por otras organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. El Comité expresó su satisfacción por las medidas adoptadas por el Director General para la adquisición de libras a plazo en el mercado, protegiendo así la ejecución del presupuesto de 1992. Después de examinar las distintas alternativas, el Comité estuvo de acuerdo en general en que una Cuenta Especial de Reserva solvente, complementada, cuando fuera necesario, con contratos de adquisición de monedas a plazo, constituye la mejor solución para la FAO. Un miembro afirmó que su Gobierno, aunque aceptaba la existencia de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva, no podía apoyar la financiación de la misma mediante la asignación de cuotas. Todo esto es un punto ya debatido en la Conferencia, por lo tanto ha sido una información que se recogió en el informe porque cada país tiene derecho a hacer.

El Comité examinó la propuesta de elevar los subsidios para gastos de representación de los directores generales adjuntos y subdirectores generales. Se le informó de que el subsidio para los subdirectores generales había sido de 2 400 dólares al año, pero desde 1965, o sea, una fecha bastante lejana, y el correspondiente a los directores generales adjuntos de 6 000 dólares desde 1974. Se informó también al Comité que el CAPI al cual había sido sometida la cuestión, había llegado a la conclusión de que el sistema común no se puede aplicar al subsidio para gastos de representación, porque eso no concierne a este punto, y que sería mejor que de ese subsidio se ocuparan los jefes ejecutivos orientados por los Organos Rectores de las organizaciones respectivas.

La Secretaría había propuesto un aumento a 13 000 dólares al año para los directores generales adjuntos y a 8 000 dólares al año para los subdirectores generales, el cual entraría en vigor a partir del 1° de enero de 1993. Con la excepción de un miembro, el Comité acordó que se sometiera la recomendación a ustedes para su aprobación. El Comité consideró también que, teniendo en cuenta el tiempo transcurrido desde el último aumento, debería aplicarse la retroactividad hasta la fecha del último reajuste del sueldo base, es decir, el 1 de marzo de 1992. Ustedes deben decidir si están de acuerdo, pero esa es la propuesta del Comité de Finanzas, porque la fecha en la que se hizo el último reajuste estaba bastante lejana.

Después pasamos al 74° período de sesiones del Comité que se celebró del 14 al 22 de septiembre de 1992.

En el capítulo de Asuntos presupuestarios, el Comité examinó informes sobre viajes en comisión de servicio y utilización de consultores en el bienio 1990-1991. En ambos casos, el Comité aprobó la propuesta de que en el futuro la información sobre estos asuntos se incorporara en el nuevo informe sobre la ejecución del Programa, como parte de la simplificación del proceso de presupuestación por programas.

En el capítulo de Asuntos financieros, el Comité examinó las cuentas comprobadas del Programa Ordinario y del PNUD correspondientes al bienio 1990-1991. Los documentos correspondientes incluían los estados de cuentas y el informe del Auditor Externo. El Comité aprobó las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo y subrayó en particular la importancia de cumplir dichas recomendaciones en relación con la necesidad de contar con suficiente personal capacitado en informática para mantener reforzado el nuevo sistema y para ayudar a los contables del sistema en la Dirección de Finanzas. Recomendó que el Consejo sometiera estas cuentas comprobadas a la Conferencia para su aprobación. El correspondiente proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia, porque hemos redactado también un proyecto, figura en el párrafo 3.42 del documento CL 102/17.

En lo relativo a los Asuntos de personal, se informó al Comité sobre las novedades recientes en las actividades de la CAPI y del Comité Mixto de Pensiones del Personal de las Naciones Unidas. Los principales puntos tratados figuran en los párrafos 3.66 a 3.74 del documento CL 102/17. Además, el Comité examinó un informe sobre la situación en lo que respecta a la remuneración, que se presenta al 102º período de sesiones del Consejo, según lo solicitado por la Conferencia en su 26º período de sesiones. Los puntos más importantes de este debate aparecen en los párrafos 3.78 a 3.86 del documento CL 102/17. El Comité expresó su preocupación por los acontecimientos registrados en este sector y pidió que el Consejo continuara estudiando y examinando estas cuestiones. Estimuló también al Director General a seguir persiguiendo sus objetivos de mejorar la contratación, retención y motivación de personal de alta calidad.

El Comité examinó asimismo la propuesta de elevar el subsidio del Presidente del Comité de Apelaciones. Recordó que el pago de este subsidio había sido aprobado por el Consejo en 1976 y se habían aprobado aumentos del mismo en 1984 y 1989. El Comité decidió recomendar al Consejo que se elevara dicho subsidio de 5 000 a 6 000 dólares EE.UU. por año con efectividad a partir del 1º de enero de 1993.

En cuanto a los Asuntos de organización, el Comité examinó las enmiendas propuestas al Reglamento Financiero con el fin de incorporar las disposiciones de las correspondientes resoluciones de la Conferencia relativas a la Cuenta Especial de Reserva. Los puntos principales del debate sobre este tema y las preocupaciones expresadas por el Comité figuran en los párrafos 3.99 a 3.106 del documento CL 102/17. En conjunto, el Comité consideró que dichas propuestas permitirían poner el Reglamento Financiero en consonancia con la práctica financiera de la Organización, con arreglo a las instrucciones de la Conferencia, si bien un miembro expresó reservas generales con respecto a la Cuenta Especial de Reserva. El Comité tomó nota de que el CACJ realizaría en septiembre de 1992 el examen jurídico y constitucional de los proyectos de enmiendas. A reserva de sus propios comentarios - hay que tenerlos en cuenta, están en el informe - y de los del CACJ, el Comité aprobó los proyectos de enmiendas y recomendó al Consejo que los sometiera a la Conferencia para su aprobación.

Le agradezco mucho al Consejo la atención que ha brindado a este pequeño informe y quedo a su disposición para contestar cualquier pregunta al respecto.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Suite à ce rapport, un certain nombre de décisions doivent être prises. En tête du rapport, vous trouvez d'ailleurs clairement résumées les questions appelant l'attention du Conseil.

Le Comité financier a délibéré d'un certain nombre de points sur lesquels une décision a déjà été prise, notamment en ce qui concerne le Plan d'incitation au paiement rapide, qui doit entrer en vigueur au début de l'année prochaine. Il y a un certain nombre de décisions qui doivent être prises par le Conseil, notamment en ce qui concerne les indemnités dont le Président vient de parler.

Je vais ouvrir le débat général.

Je rappelle que les questions plus spécifiques, comme le Compte de réserve spécial, font l'objet de points spéciaux notamment également toutes les conditions de rémunération du personnel. Il est souhaitable d'éviter des répétitions, et de procéder de manière systématique.

Pour le moment, nous avons comme orateurs inscrits: Chypre, les Philippines, le Royaume-Uni, l'Inde, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, le Japon, l'Allemagne, l'Australie, le Liban, la Chine, la République de Corée.

Si aucun observateur ne désire s'inscrire je déclare la liste close.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus):** We wish to commend the Chairman and the members of the Finance Committee for the excellent work done by them. Their report covers a great many items. I intend only to refer to the issues and parts which are of interest to my Government.

Looking at the past biennium, I refer to the Annual Report and Budgetary Performance 1990-91. My delegation regrets that insufficient resources required budgetary transfers from technical and economic programmes in order to cover budgeted costs related to administrative and support services which are insufficient. We understand that when adequate budgetary provision is not made to cover unavoidable fixed costs the only way to do so is by reducing expenditure in the Technical and Economical Programmes.

However, this is not in the interests of our Organization. It is our duty, as Member Nations, to ensure that we agree to make the necessary provisions so that these programmes can be implemented.

We share the views of the Finance Committee that the last biennium has been a very difficult one from the budgetary viewpoint. We endorse the Committee's recommendations of the Director-General for maintaining stringent budgetary controls and limiting expenditure and commitment within the appropriation approved by the Conference despite the high level of unbudgeted costs.

Turning now to the present situation we are proceeding with the monitoring of the financial situation by the Finance Committee. It is satisfying to be informed that there has been some improvement in the financial situation since the Committee last met. Over 50 Member Nations have paid their current assessments in full and more than 20 in part, and that a number of Nations have begun to pay their arrears. The first instalment of payment by the USA of US\$22.6 million is particularly welcome. I am pleased to inform the Council that my country is one of those who have paid its contribution in full. This is our individual and common obligation to our Organization.

We join in the appeal of the Finance Committee once again to those Member Nations with contributions outstanding to pay their current assessed contributions and arrears in full as soon as possible. It is my delegation's conviction that the adoption of incentives for early payment of contributions will have positive results in the timing of receipts. We believe that such incentives should be associated with penalties for late payment to discourage such delays.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the recommendation of the Finance Committee for an increase in the representational allowance of the Deputy Director-General and the Assistant Director-General, considering that these allowances have not been reviewed since 1974 and 1965 respectively, my delegation believes that an increase in this allowance is fully justified or, as the Committee has recognized, the increase is long overdue. Taking also into consideration that this proposal will result in an additional cost to the Organization of only US\$75 000 in the current biennium my delegation endorses the recommendations. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** Being a member of the Finance Committee I just wish to reiterate my endorsement of the two reports of the Finance Committee as well as the report of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, including those items which require a decision from the Council.

In endorsing the aforementioned reports I wish to highlight four points. The first point is with regard to Trust Fund Support Costs reimbursement, the Committees endorsed the methodologies for the identification of support costs. Mr Chairman, if the reimbursement of the costs is insufficient, this will have to be paid from the Regular Budget. I do not believe that will be in the interests of our Organization. Therefore, the Committee has recommended that the reimbursement be increased to cover direct and indirect costs. Some members are agreed that some subsidy by way of fixed indirect costs could be born by the Organization but only to a minimal degree.

The second point is with regard to the study of an alternative mechanism to protect the Programme of Work and Budget from exchange rate fluctuations. We know the problem, Mr Chairman. The budget is approved in dollars but a huge amount is spent in lire. When the lire loses its value vis-à-vis the dollar then the budget incurs a loss. The Finance Committee, after studying this, recommended that the best way of tackling this would be to maintain a solvent Special Reserve Account and supplement it, when appropriate, with a forward exchange contract. Mr Chairman, as our good friend Mr Monroe said, the FAO is not in the business of making money. If we are able to make the appropriate forward purchases when the conditions are right then the Organization may not make additional gains from currency exchange rates when the dollar reevaluates but at least the budget is protected. Sometimes, Mr Chairman, the conditions - all the conditions - cannot be covered by forward buying and, therefore, we still need the Special Reserve Account which has been approved by the Conference.

There is a certain aleatory nature in this account but, on the whole, in the past I think that when the exchange rate was favourable governments were reimbursed from savings. But then, when we begin to pay money out because of losses, the reaction is not very favourable. A combination of these two means,

I think, as recommended by the Finance Committee, it deserves the support of the Council.

With regard to the codification of the provisions regarding the Special Reserve Account which have already been approved by the Conference, we believe they should be codified in the Basic Text because we need these regulations which are already effective to be located in a place where everybody can find them. By codifying it, we will solve the problem.

It is true that some portions of this regulation are not covered by the existing regulations but are certainly in accordance with the spirit that already exists.

With regard to the allowances of the ADGs and DDGs as mentioned by my good friend, the Ambassador of Cyprus, these have not been adjusted since 1964 and 1975 respectively.

If the full adjustment is made, the allowances would have to be greater. I think we fully approve the proposal that is indicated in the report of the Finance Committee.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je me permettrai respectueusement de faire remarquer que l'importante question des dépenses d'appui sera examinée sous le point 16 de l'ordre du jour la semaine prochaine. C'est une question très importante qui fera incontestablement l'objet d'un débat et qui fait l'objet d'un point spécial de notre ordre du jour.

En ce qui concerne le Compte de réserve spécial, qui a fait l'objet d'une décision de la Conférence, j'avais proposé qu'on le discute, comme vient de le signaler M. Carandang, sous le point 23 qui normalement sera discuté mercredi prochain dans l'après-midi.

Je prends note des achats à terme et des prises de position de la Représentante des Philippines en ce qui concerne les diverses indemnités dont il a été fait mention dans l'exposé du Président du Comité financier.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** With your permission, I would like to start with a short intervention on behalf of the European Community and its Member States and then continue with my national statement on behalf of the United Kingdom. I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The Community confirmed that, in accordance with Article XVIII.6 of the FAO Constitution and in conformity with the decision of the 26th Conference, it has paid in full administrative expenses for the last quarter of 1991 and for the entire year 1992 of US\$62 500 and US\$250 000 respectively.

The Community believes that any additional expenditure labelled as "other costs" should remain within the meaning and scope of Article XVIII.6 of the FAO Constitution with regard to other administrative costs that may arise out of the membership in the Organization.

The European Community is ready to examine the question, together with the FAO Secretariat.

That is the end of my statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. I would now like to continue with my statement on behalf of the United Kingdom.

As was the case with the Programme Committee, some of the matters referred to Council under the reports of this Committee are covered elsewhere on our agenda, so I will not address them here.

I agree with the conclusion of the Committee that 1990-91 has been a very difficult biennium from a budgetary point of view. Causes included delays in the receipts of contributions from Member States, the consequent borrowing and the exceptionally high level of unbudgeted costs.

We know, however, from paper CL 102/LIM/1, that in contrast to previous years the FAO's financial situation is now much improved. We sincerely hope that this trend will continue.

Overall, the financial results show the total expenditure last year was 99.9 per cent of the approved budget. However, this containment of expenditure within the approved total budget appears to have been achieved by transfers reducing allocations for technical and economic programmes to meet unbudgeted costs of support services. Actual costs of support to field programmes exceeded those budgeted. Actual expenditure comparisons for 1990-91 shown on page 36 show that the cost of support services represented 15 percent of the total expenditure and commitment and 32 percent of the expenditure on technical and economic programmes.

We will be addressing the support costs in our later interventions, so I will not go into very much more detail here.

We also address the questions of the Special Reserve Account on another item of our agenda but I would like to put down the marker at this point, Mr Chairman, that we will be opposing the proposal.

Paragraphs 275-279 of this document discussed the representation allowances of the Deputy and Assistant Director-General. While we can see that some increase will quite likely be called for, we do not agree that future increases should be automatically linked to percentage adjustment to the net base salary scale. This is something we cannot endorse.

In paragraph 213 the Committee has expressed the hope that lasting solutions to budget problems could be found. I would suggest that if all - and I repeat "all" - Member Nations met their assessed contributions, this would go a long way to solving most of these problems.

Our views on an incentive scheme are well-known. We consider that it should not be necessary to provide an incentive for Member States to meet their constitutional obligations.

The Committee has highlighted that the financial situation was still amongst the worst in the history of the Organization as far as the selection of assessed contributions is concerned. Details are shown within paragraphs 228-248 and the results in borrowings are outlined within paragraph 250.

My delegation's views on borrowing are already well-known to the Secretariat and members of this Council. We are opposed to external borrowing.



Finally, there is an issue which I think needs to be addressed at some stage and that is how this Committee and other restricted small committees are composed, how they operate and conduct their business.

The delegate of Japan has already made his views known on this Council.

You have, Mr Chairman, advised us all to study the Basic Texts. My delegation, at least, is familiar with these texts. That said, we, along with a number of other delegations here today have been concerned for some time about the structure, composition and method of working of these committees.

At this stage I would like to stress that my remarks are not meant to be critical in any way of the existing members of the restricted committees. We consider that they do an absolutely splendid job. However, one of our main concerns stems from the massive responsibilities we impose on these committees. They are expected to consider a huge amount of detailed documentation in relation to the programme, financial and legal issues facing the Organization and to give detailed guidance to this Council and to the Conference, as well as to give advice to the Secretariat on all major operating issues facing the Organization.

My delegation is concerned that we, the governing Council of this Organization, is imposing an impossible task on very few members.

The issue of the composition of these committees has, as we all know, been addressed many times before. The last time, as I recall correctly, was at the Conference in 1989. This, I think, was a reflection of the concern felt by a number of delegations.

There are a number of complex issues regarding the committees. We cannot hope to address them all here at this session of the Council. Indeed, I am sure we would not be allowed to do so. I would, therefore, like to suggest - of course, only if other members of Council agree - that we, the Council, give this matter some thought and that we address the issue at the next session of the Council.

If I may be allowed to anticipate your comments on my intervention, Mr Chairman, I repeat that we are fully familiar with the Basic Texts and will draw on these as necessary.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je ne doute pas que le représentant du Royaume-Uni connaisse parfaitement l'ensemble des Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation. En réponse à une question précise posée par le représentant du Japon, j'ai fait référence au Règlement intérieur du Comité financier et à celui du Comité du Programme. Il est clair, que s'il y a des difficultés, il est souhaitable que, dans un premier temps, les membres de ces comités puissent en discuter au sein desdits comités.

Le représentant du Royaume-Uni a fait allusion à une tâche impossible. Je n'ai guère entendu jusqu'à présent, au sein de ces comités, de doléances à ce sujet.

En ce qui concerne l'intervention financière de la Communauté économique européenne, je remercie le représentant du Royaume-Uni de la déclaration qu'il vient de faire. En effet, l'article XVIII de l'Acte constitutif prévoit que

l'organisation membre, c'est-à-dire la Communauté économique européenne, est tenue de verser une somme déterminée par la Conférence. C'est la Conférence qui a déterminé ce montant et on nous annonce qu'il a été versé.

En ce qui concerne l'inscription des différents points à l'ordre du jour du Conseil, vous savez mieux que moi, puisque vous avez étudié le Règlement général, que n'importe quel point peut être inscrit à l'ordre du jour du Conseil. Un ordre du jour provisoire a été soumis à nos délibérations. Le Mexique a demandé d'y ajouter un point additionnel, 30 jours avant l'ouverture de la session. Si vous estimez devoir inscrire un point supplémentaire à la prochaine session du Conseil, vous pouvez le faire sans l'ombre d'une difficulté. Jamais, conformément à nos textes statutaires, il n'a été refusé d'inscrire un point à l'ordre du jour. Mais se borner à faire une déclaration sans inscription à l'ordre du jour me semble une pétition de principe quelque peu éthérée. Si vous voulez inscrire un point précis à l'ordre du jour, il faut suivre une certaine procédure. Moi-même, en tant que Président du Conseil, je n'ai pas le droit de déroger à la procédure telle qu'établie par les Textes fondamentaux. Il vous appartient de prendre vos responsabilités et, selon les prescriptions des Textes fondamentaux, d'inscrire à l'ordre du jour les points que vous désirez examiner.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** If you had listened carefully to my statement, I was proposing that we would do just that.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous devez nécessairement présenter votre demande d'inscription d'un point précis à l'ordre du jour du Conseil 30 jours avant la session. Cette demande doit s'adresser au Directeur général et il est souhaitable qu'elle soit accompagnée d'une note avec des propositions concrètes. On peut difficilement discuter de la composition des comités en général sans un document précis dont nous ne sommes pas saisis, à l'heure actuelle.

Vous prévoyez un élargissement général, une technicité plus grande, ce qui met fatalement en cause la compétence technique de ceux qui font partie de ce comité pour le moment. Si vous faites une proposition concrète, elle sera bien sûr examinée.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I was not actually proposing that we discuss the issue now, I was merely putting a marker down, which is why we do not have concrete proposals. I asked that the Council give this some thought before the next meeting.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je me permets une réflexion. Je vous dirai que le Conseil n'arrête pas d'y réfléchir et qu'il continuera d'y réfléchir jusqu'au mois de juin; que les comités ne font que réfléchir à l'organisation de leurs travaux et à leurs programmes. C'est donc une réflexion permanente et constante qui fait également l'objet des préoccupations du Président indépendant du Conseil toujours très soucieux d'améliorer la procédure et les travaux du Conseil de façon à les rendre le plus efficaces possible.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** My delegation commends the hard work which the Finance Committee has done in presenting these two reports to the Council. I also

thank the Chairman for the very clear, detailed and pointed presentation of both the reports. We also have before us the report of the Joint Session of the Finance and Programme Committees. It has three items which are the subject of separate agenda items, so I shall not comment on that.

My delegation has no difficulty with the suggestion about endorsing the reports of both sessions of the Finance Committee. I shall restrict myself to a few comments.

My delegation fully supports the proposal about protecting the Programme of Work and Budget against variations in exchange rates and other contingencies. In our view, it is essential to have some provision against these contingencies, which are mentioned in paragraph 3.99. The Special Reserve Fund, which has been operating since 1977 by dint of Conference Resolutions every biennium, and the proposals contained in paragraph 3.105 to codify this provision into the Regulations of the Organization have the full support of my delegation. We are also quite happy to note that by forward exchange rate operations the Organization has been able to make a gain of about US\$7 million. I should like personally to compliment Mr Mehboob on this kind of operation.

I have one or two questions about the Special Reserve Account. I find that for the first year in the current biennium the Special Reserve Account already stands at more than US\$15 million, whereas there was a target of collecting US\$14 million out of the assessments on this account, we have received only about US\$8.36 million and the rest has been made by forward exchange rate operations. I should like to know whether in this case there is a surplus in the Special Reserve Account. Does it mean that member countries are not required to be assessed in the next biennium? In our view that should be the case. If there is an amount in the Special Reserve Account, member countries should not be subject to a special assessment for this account in the next biennium.

In conclusion, we endorse this report and we support this proposal.

**Gerald J. MONROE (United States of America):** The United States delegation would like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his thorough and factual report of the discussions which took place this year in the 73rd and 74th Sessions of the Finance Committee. As a member of the Finance Committee, the United States actively participated in its deliberations and therefore I can afford to be brief since we have already made clear our views on many of the topics highlighted in the report. Also, you have pointed out that questions surrounding the Special Reserve Account, as well as issues associated with the audited accounts, will be discussed at a later point on our agenda. Suffice to say that we shall have comments to make at that time.

Narrowing my focus sharply to one item of business which the Council must decide upon, I would like to reiterate our position in opposition to proposals to increase the representation allowances for the Deputy Directors-General and Assistant Directors-General and the proposal to adjust those allowances based on percentage changes made to net base salaries. Regretfully, my delegation must continue to oppose this proposal. There is nothing personal in it Mr Chairman. In our view, however, the level of such allowances should be established based on need - that is to say, it should reflect the actual activity envisaged for the payment of those allowances. It should have no

relation to salary increases. Additionally, expenditure should be examined for appropriateness at reasonable intervals - that is to say, consistent with those activities for which these allowances have been established.

In the UN, the level of representation allowance is approved by the UN General Assembly, and, unlike the proposal before us, changes in these levels are not directly indexed to salary increases, cost of living indices or any other measure. We are aware that the International Civil Service Commission in its report to the 47th UN General Assembly recommends that decisions on representation allowances for executive heads should be left to governing bodies of organizations. However, we continue to believe that there are pitfalls in taking this approach and we would prefer that common UN system parameters be established to arrive at such decisions. One such system of parameters would establish guidelines in which governing bodies, such as this Council, could make the determination so as to prevent representation allowances from serving as salary supplements.

As I pointed out before, we should also like to see the establishment of an accounting instrument or some mechanism for assessing the use of representational funds to enable Member States to determine the extent to which any representation allowance should be increased or decreased on the basis of past experience.

I will, as I said, not refer to the Special Reserve Account and the audited accounts, which I had planned to do. However, I should like to conclude by endorsing the statements of my British colleague with respect to the rules of procedure and the organization of the restricted committees. I think no more need be said on that topic.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je me permets de rappeler que nous devons nous prononcer à la fois sur les indemnités de représentation pour les Directeurs généraux adjoints et les Sous-Directeurs généraux ainsi que sur l'indemnité du Président du Comité de recours.

Le représentant des Etats-Unis a invoqué la première de ces indemnités et, en ce qui concerne le dernier point de son intervention, je ne pourrais que répéter - mais je ne vais pas le faire, je vais seulement confirmer - ce que j'ai dit en réponse aux suggestions faites par le représentant du Royaume-Uni.

**Haruo ISHII (Japan):** I should like to thank the Finance Committee for having discussed very important matters concerning our Organization. Japan is fully aware that FAO is facing a serious arrears problem and that the need to solve this problem is urgent and indispensable for our Organization.

I believe that Member Nations have understood Japan's situation, as Japan has been explaining at the Conference and the Council. I observe that many Member Nations face similar hurdles.

It is said that the incentive scheme is considered as a tool to solve the arrears problem, but its effect has not been proved in other agencies which have put an incentive scheme into practice. Bearing all in mind, Japan cannot support any scheme which would impose penalties for delay in payments without regard to the financial systems of Member Nations.

I should like to touch on the Special Reserve Account. Japan opposed the resolution to replenish the Special Reserve Account at the 26th Session of the Conference held last year because there is some duplication between the function of the Special Reserve Account and that of the Working Capital Fund and some question of their efficiency. In addition, the objectives of the amendment of the FAO financial regulation regarding the Special Reserve Account is that it should be used to advance money to the General Fund whenever the Working Capital Fund is insufficient to finance budgetary expenditure, as set out in 6.9(b)(i) of the draft amendment. If the amendment is adopted, the duplication between the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund will become larger increasingly and constantly. In this context, Japan cannot support it.

Finally, regarding the question of composition of restricted committees, Japan can fully support the comments made by the United Kingdom.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement l'honorable délégué du Japon de son intervention. En ce qui concerne le compte de réserve spécial j'avais suggéré que ce sujet soit discuté ultérieurement sous le point 23 de notre ordre du jour. Vous aurez sans doute l'occasion à ce moment-là de reprendre ce que vous venez de dire à propos de la position japonaise.

En ce qui concerne les travaux des comités, je crois avoir répondu de manière complète en suivant les Textes fondamentaux que vous connaissez également mais dont nous sommes les fidèles gardiens.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** The Finance Committee, in its Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Sessions dealt with aspects that have been a major concern of our Organization for some time now: How to make FAO fully operational by stabilizing its financing position?

Fortunately, after dealing with Agenda Item 14 the situation looks better, but we should be aware of one concern that has not been mentioned so far: the possible negative effect on financial discipline of new Member Nations, the bad example that those members failing to comply with their obligations might have.

My delegation would like to comment on some of the options submitted in the excellent document that has been presented by the Finance Committee.

Firstly, the incentive scheme to encourage prompt payment of contributions: the Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference decided to introduce this system on an experimental basis. My Government has still some doubts regarding its feasibility. The incentive scheme can only work if interest income is available. However, interest to be paid for internal and external borrowings would necessarily reduce the amount of money to be shared by those having paid their contributions prior to 31 March. In 1991, FAO had to pay US\$787 000 as interest on account of liquidity credits taken. Could the Secretariat provide more detailed information on how much it expects to earn in the form of interest in 1992 and 1993 to finance the incentive scheme? How much was earned in 1991?

The interest income to be handed out to prompt payers under the incentive scheme would be part of a cash surplus in the General Fund. According to

Financial Regulation VI, 6.1 (b) such a surplus (and the interest income therein contained) shall be allocated among Member Nations. Consequently, this Regulation would have to be suspended for that part of interest income to be distributed not globally but under the incentive scheme. Could the Secretariat explain how to proceed in this case?

Secondly, alternative mechanisms to protect the FAO Programme of Work and Budget from exchange rate fluctuations: my Government favours the careful study of any other solution to the problem alternative to the Special Reserve Account. I refer to what the Joint Inspection Unit has recommended in its Report "Budgeting in Organizations of the UN System" (document A/45/130) regarding the future use of reserve accounts. Positive experience of the application of the split currency system is reported from UNESCO, UNIDO and IAEA. FAO should further consider the introduction of such a system to mitigate the negative effect of currency exchange rate fluctuations.

Thirdly, increase of representation allowance for the DDG and ADGs; my Government has to express reservations about the increase as foreseen. In this respect we associate ourselves with what has been stated previously by the distinguished delegates of the United Kingdom and the United States.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que vous avez parfaitement raison concernant les nouveaux membres qui seraient admis dans notre Organisation. Il est en effet très important d'attirer leur attention sur les obligations résultant de leur admission au sein de l'Organisation.

Les autres points seront examinés ultérieurement lors de la réponse qui sera faite aux questions posées.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Australia shares the concern expressed by the Finance Committee about the full impact of the revised UNDP support cost arrangements on FAO's field activities not being known at this time. The Director-General is requested to report to the next Council meeting on the actual effects of the new support cost arrangement and any resulting trends in FAO's field activities.

Finally, Australia has for many years been a member of the Finance Committee. It is now a member of the Programme Committee. Australia supports the views of the United Kingdom concerning the need for a review of the composition of those committees, particularly on the question of one country representative.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La question du Compte de réserve spécial sera examinée sous le point 23, comme je l'ai signalé et en ce qui concerne votre dernière remarque je crois y avoir déjà répondu. Il est tout à fait souhaitable, bien sûr, que les membres des comités puissent évoquer ces problèmes au cours de leurs réunions.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I did not make any reference to the Special Reserve Account. My first point concerned the UNDP support cost arrangement.

**LE PRESIDENT:** J'avais signalé que le point concernant le Compte de réserve spécial, des dépenses d'appui et du personnel faisait l'objet de points différents de notre ordre du jour. Excusez-moi d'avoir confondu dépenses d'appui et Compte de réserve spécial.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Je tiens à remercier Monsieur Carlos Di Mottola Balestra, Président du Comité financier, d'avoir présenté les rapports des sessions de septembre et de mai du Comité financier. Son exposé a été tout à fait complet et clair.

Il est agréable pour moi d'être membre de ce Comité financier et d'avoir l'occasion également de participer aux travaux de ce Conseil. C'est la raison pour laquelle je ne puis qu'appuyer les travaux du Comité financier et j'invite cette auguste assemblée à appuyer les propositions avancées par ce Comité dans ses rapports, et notamment les propositions concernant les indemnités de représentation pour les Sous-Directeurs généraux et les Directeurs généraux adjoints. Nous estimons que ces indemnités devraient suivre les augmentations du coût de la vie que nous avons connues au cours des dernières années. Nous savons également que ces indemnités, bien qu'elles aient été revues et même revues à la hausse cette fois-ci, ne sont toujours pas suffisantes pour couvrir les frais réels des Directeurs généraux adjoints et Sous-Directeurs généraux.

**NI HONGXING (China) (Original language Chinese):** I would like to thank the Finance Committee and congratulate it on its efforts. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee on his introduction to the item.

The Chinese delegation has noted that expenditure for 1990/91 was US\$56 million, which is 99 percent of the budget approved by the Conference and US\$18 million less than income. This made it possible to reduce the accumulated deficit.

Furthermore, improvement of the management has made it possible for us to absorb cost increases. We could say that this budgetary exercise has been rather satisfactory. That is the result of the efforts made by the Director-General, in order to implement very strictly the Programme of Work and Budget as approved by the Conference. We cannot but congratulate him.

Nevertheless, that does not prevent us from noting that the situation, so far as arrears are concerned, is still worrying. So far as borrowing is concerned, and extra-budgetary expenditure, the amount involved is very high. For example, US\$50 million were borrowed and no rational solution has yet been found for the breakdown of interest. It is a most worrying problem.

**Kwang Wook AN (Korea, Republic of):** First of all, my delegation would like to congratulate the Finance Committee members for their excellent work during the two Sessions of the Finance Committee, and the Secretariats for the very informative document.

Concerning the Incentive Scheme to enhance prompt payment of contributions, my delegation endorses the Committee's decision that the discount scheme approved by last Conference will be introduced on a test basis on 1 January 1993. We hope that the discount scheme which will be informed to the member

countries through the formal notification of the starting date will demonstrate effectiveness.

My delegation would also like to point out that more attention should be given to study how to apply the merit system more effectively, rather than how to apply and strengthen the penalty system.

As clearly mentioned in paragraph 3.34 of the document CL 102/17, the incentive schemes of the organizations rarely show the effectiveness.

However, there is also one example of the success of the incentive scheme. I emphasize that the WHO case be thoroughly examined.

For the penalty system, all the negative and counter-productive points should be checked, because it could cause serious damage to a large number of member countries.

Finally, my delegation shares the recognition that the staff are the most valuable asset on which the successful implementation of FAO's programme activities depends, and that the FAO must be able to recruit and retain high quality staff. My delegation also notes that salary and pension matters are important factors for the maintenance of highly qualified staff.

In this connection, my delegation would like information on the results of a comparative study of ICSC, which the ACC has requested, as mentioned in paragraph 2.73 of document CL 102/4. Based on the comparative study results, and recommendations on the conditions of FAO staff in comparison with other organizations, we can consider further specific ideas on how to improve the situation.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ce qui concerne le plan d'incitation, il s'agit d'une décision de la Conférence qui entrera en application à titre expérimental au 1er janvier 1993. Il n'est pas dans les compétences du Conseil de remettre en cause une décision de la Conférence. Si personne ne demande plus la parole sur le rapport du Comité financier, je donne immédiatement la parole à M. Mehboob, Sous-Directeur général.

That is except for the Special Reserve Account, the problem of Personnel and the problem of Support Costs, which will be dealt with under other items next week.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** There were not many questions. I just have information on two points to give to members.

The delegate of Germany mentioned the experience of UNESCO, UNIDO and IAEA on split currency budgeting and multi-currency accounting and budgeting. This aspect of budgeting was considered by the Finance Committee on a few occasions previously, and because of the problems of the organizations which are using this system the Finance Committee was not in a position to recommend that FAO should follow suit. Our information from UNESCO, UNIDO and IAEA is that they are having severe problems because the members are not paying on time, so the organizations end up having to buy various currencies, which defeats the whole



objective of the split currency system and complicates currency management. So our information is that their experience is not positive.

It was for this reason that the Finance Committee was unable to recommend a system like that for FAO.

The delegate of Germany also requested information on interest rates and a forecast of interest for 1992-93. This is not easy to prepare because it depends on the timing of the contributions. As the debate under one of the items this afternoon showed, we never have information on when members will pay, so it would be extremely difficult for us to give any meaningful figure of an interest income forecast.

For the past, we could give certain figures for 1992, and if the delegate will bear with us we will give him the figure for 1991 tomorrow morning.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ce qui concerne les précisions sur le montant des intérêts, si on ne connaît pas les dates de paiement on rejoint les problèmes de trésorerie que nous avons évoqués tout à l'heure.

**Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas):** Quisiera contestar a unas intervenciones que han sido hechas sobre la integración del Comité de Finanzas y del Comité del Programa. La integración de ambos comités, como todos ustedes saben, está definida claramente en los Textos Básicos de la FAO. Ha sido definida teniendo en cuenta que tienen que ser comités restringidos, o sea, comités que no teniendo ningún mandato específico, excepto el de reflexionar y definir propuestas y presentarlas al Consejo, tienen que estar estrictamente restringidos. Para llegar a definir su composición durante años ha sido necesario establecer un equilibrio entre el número de miembros, ya sea entre los países en desarrollo y los países desarrollados; y también entre las mismas regiones, o sea, entre países desarrollados y en desarrollo y las distintas regiones.

Una renegociación sobre la integración es seguramente posible, siempre que sea regularmente presentada de acuerdo con lo previsto en la Constitución para enmiendas de carácter constitucional, pero a mí me parece que nos encaminamos hacia una negociación extremadamente compleja, porque el concepto del equilibrio entre países en desarrollo, países desarrollados y regiones es extremadamente difícil de alcanzar, y se ha alcanzado en la integración de esos comités. Me parece que en el futuro no será fácil hacerlo, sin embargo nada impide que esta negociación empiece. Me temo que al final de todo ese ejercicio se llegue a tener dos comités, no restringidos sino extremadamente amplios, entonces estos comités tendrían dificultades para alcanzar propuestas que son únicamente fruto de reflexiones y presentarlas al Consejo. El Consejo es absolutamente soberano de ver todos los documentos examinados por los comités, de leer el debate, de enterarse de lo que ha pasado y de expresar opiniones completamente disconformes con lo que han hecho los comités.

La razón de querer ampliar la integración de los comités me queda oscura. Sin embargo, pienso que, naturalmente, este tema puede ser presentado en la forma prevista por la Constitución. Quería únicamente presentar un cuadro de las dificultades que se van a presentar. Se empieza un debate que no va a ser terminado, yo creo, en uno o dos períodos de sesiones.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je désire rappeler encore une fois que tout ce qui concerne les comptes vérifiés du programme ordinaire du PNUD et du PAM sera discuté sous le point 15 de l'ordre du jour. La question de rémunération des conditions de service du personnel sous le point 17, que la question du Compte de réserve spécial sera discutée sous le point 23, et que tout ce qui concerne les dépenses d'appui des programmes de la FAO financés par des fonds fiduciaires seront discutés sous le point 16. De ce fait, notre Conseil n'a pas à prendre de décisions pour le moment sur ces différents points.

J'ai entendu de manière très claire des réserves qui ont été formulées par certains membres du Conseil en ce qui concerne les indemnités de représentation pour les Directeurs généraux adjoints et les Sous-Directeurs généraux. Je n'ai pas entendu d'observations ni de réserves en ce qui concerne l'indemnité du Président du Comité des ressources.

Je poserai la question aux membres du Conseil. A l'exception du point concernant les indemnités de représentation pour les Directeurs généraux adjoints et les Sous-Directeurs généraux, je vous demanderai de me faire savoir si vous avez des objections, à l'exception des points que j'ai cités qui feront l'objet d'une discussion la semaine prochaine.

A mon avis, il y a un point sur lequel le Conseil devrait se prononcer parce que les avis sont divergents. Est-ce que sur d'autres points il y a des réserves de certains membres du Conseil?...

Je n'en vois pas. je peux considérer que les conclusions des travaux du Comité financier sont adoptées, à l'exception du point concernant les indemnités de représentation.

En ce qui concerne ce point, il appartient bien sûr aux membres du Conseil de prendre la décision qu'ils sont tenus de prendre.

La proposition faite par le Comité financier est de procéder à l'ajustement du traitement de base à partir du 1er mars 1992. La question des indemnités de représentation des Directeurs généraux adjoints et des Sous-Directeurs généraux est traitée aux paragraphes 2.65 à 2.79.

Vous connaissez le problème de ces indemnités de représentation. Il y a différentes procédures. Nous pouvons nous prononcer clairement et je vais proposer de procéder à un vote à main levée, à moins que certains membres du Conseil n'émettent le voeu d'un vote différent. Il y a différentes possibilités: Le vote à main levée, le vote par appel nominal et le vote par scrutin secret.

Est-ce que les Membres du Conseil sont d'accord pour procéder par un vote à main levée?...

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Donc nous procéderons à un vote à main levée. Le Conseil a 49 membres. Conformément au Règlement général la majorité requise des membres du Conseil est de 25.

Je voudrais vous signaler que le vote que nous allons émettre en ce qui concerne ces indemnités, va se faire en trois temps. Je vais d'abord demander aux membres qui sont en faveur de l'octroi de l'indemnité de représentation à partir du 1er mars 1992, suivant la proposition du Comité financier, de bien vouloir voter, en levant la pancarte sur laquelle est inscrit le nom de leur pays, afin que le Secrétariat puisse les compter.

Je demanderai ensuite à ceux qui sont contre l'augmentation de l'indemnité de bien vouloir voter de la même façon, c'est à dire de lever leur pancarte, étant bien entendu que chaque membre ne peut voter qu'une seule fois. Ensuite je demanderai à ceux qui s'abstiennent de bien vouloir lever leur pancarte.

Je vois que le Maroc a une motion d'ordre.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je n'ai pas très bien saisi la question que vous avez posé au Conseil. Vous avez parlé de l'octroi d'une indemnité de représentation à partir du 1er mars 1992.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous avez raison. Le terme exact ce n'est pas l'octroi de l'indemnité, c'est la réévaluation de cette indemnité. Compte tenu du temps écoulé depuis le dernier ajustement, ces augmentations devront prendre effet rétroactivement à compter de la date du dernier ajustement du traitement de base, à savoir le 1er mars 1992. Il s'agit d'une recommandation du Comité financier. Vous étiez présent, M. Sinaceur, vous connaissez bien le problème.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Permettez-moi de lever une incompréhension. Comme vous l'avez dit, je suis membre du Comité financier et je suis au courant de la recommandation. J'avais insisté sur la formulation de la question que vous avez posée au Conseil. Vous avez dit: l'octroi d'une indemnité aux Directeurs généraux adjoints et Sous-Directeurs généraux. Il serait plus correct de parler de réactualisation ou de réévaluation.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il ne s'agit pas de l'indemnité. Il s'agit de la proposition faite par le Comité financier de procéder à l'ajustement du traitement de base pour les frais de représentation à partir du 1er mars 1992. Si vous voulez plus de précision, je peux donner la parole au Directeur général adjoint, mais le Comité financier a été très clair. Nous pouvons procéder au vote.

Vote

Vote

Votación

**LE PRESIDENT:** Suffrages exprimés: 23

Majorité requise: 12

Pour: 14. Contre 9

Abstentions: 3

Il ne me reste qu'à vous remercier, en signalant qu'après ce vote à main levée la proposition du Comité financier est adoptée par notre Conseil.

Je crois que nous avons fait un excellent travail. Il reste un certain nombre de points importants qui seront examinés la semaine prochaine.

En ce qui concerne l'ordre de nos travaux j'ai un petit problème que je vous sou mets.

Madame le Directeur exécutif du PAM a signalé qu'à son vif regret, elle ne pouvait absolument pas se libérer le lundi 16 novembre, et comme elle tient à introduire le point de l'ordre du jour qui la concerne, c'est-à-dire le 17ème rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM, je vous suggère de modifier l'ordre du jour de nos travaux. Je voudrais, dans le cadre des bonnes relations entre la FAO et le PAM, donner satisfaction à Mme Catherine Bertini, Directeur exécutif du PAM, et je vous demande de déplacer le point 10.1 de notre ordre du jour.

Nous aurons le lundi 16 novembre au matin l'examen du point 11 de l'ordre du jour qui concerne le rapport intérimaire sur l'exécution du budget-programme approuvé pour 1992-93. L'après-midi nous commencerions par l'élection de sept membres du Comité de politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, et nous remplacerions le point 10.1 par le point 15 inscrit à l'ordre du jour de mardi et qui concerne les comptes vérifiés du Programme ordinaire 1990-91, les comptes du PNUD pour 1990-1991 et les comptes vérifiés du PAM 1990-1991. Donc le point 15 de l'ordre du jour serait examiné lundi 16 novembre dans l'après-midi et le point 10.1: 17ème rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM, point introduit par Madame Catherine Bertini, Directeur exécutif du PAM, serait examiné le mardi 17 novembre au matin.

Il s'agit d'une petite modification. Je crois que nous avons tout le temps de préparer ces différents points de l'ordre du jour en fonction du travail de la semaine prochaine. Y a-t-il des objections à l'égard de cette proposition?

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Monsieur le Président, je voulais m'assurer que j'avais bien compris votre proposition, qui ne présenterait pas de problème pour moi, à savoir que l'élection des membres du Conseil se tiendrait toujours le lundi après-midi.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Bien sûr. Je répète que, le lundi matin 16 novembre, nous examinerons le point 11 de l'ordre du jour (Rapport intérimaire sur l'exécution du Budget-programme approuvé pour 1992-93); que, l'après-midi nous examinerons le point 15, puis le point 10.2, c'est-à-dire que nous procéderons à l'élection des sept membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM. Nous examinerons le point 10.1, relatif au dix-septième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programme d'aide alimentaire du PAM, le matin du mardi 17 novembre, en présence de Mme Bertini, Directeur exécutif du PAM.

L'après-midi, nous prendrons le point 16 de l'ordre du jour (Arrangements concernant les dépenses d'appui des programmes de la FAO financés par des fonds fiduciaires) et le point 17 (Rémunération et conditions d'emploi du personnel). Nous aurons donc un après-midi chargé.

Nous arrivons au terme de nos travaux. Je vous remercie très vivement pour l'activité qui a été déployée cette semaine. Je voudrais saluer M. Gill, de l'Inde, qui doit nous quitter. Je souhaite un excellent voyage à tous les spécialistes qui se rendent à Tokyo. Je voudrais également saluer Mme Lizzarraga et lui souhaiter un bon voyage de retour. Sa présence et ses interventions ont été particulièrement importantes dans le domaine de la pêche.

The meeting rose at 20.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 20 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 20 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 102/PV/11

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
11<sup>a</sup> SESION PLENARIA  
(16 November 1992)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

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

Se abre la 11<sup>a</sup> sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

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

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

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

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

11. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Approved Programme Budget 1992-93

11. Rapport intérimaire sur l'exécution du budget-programme approuvé pour 1992-93

11. Informe sobre la ejecución del presupuesto del Programa aprobado para 1992-93

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare ouverte cette onzième séance plénière.

Nous avons à notre ordre du jour ce matin le point 11: Rapport intérimaire sur l'exécution du budget et programme approuvé pour 1992-93. Ce rapport se réfère aux documents suivants: CL 102/13 et CL 102/13 Sup.1 qui donne la situation financière en contributions courantes et en arriérés des contributions, actualisées au regard du rapport intérimaire qui fut examiné d'une part par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, en session conjointe, et d'autre part, de manière approfondie par le Comité du Programme. Je vous renvoie, à ce sujet, au document CL 102/17, paragraphes 1.1-1.16: "Rapport intérimaire sur l'exécution du budget-programme approuvé pour 1992-93". Il s'agit du rapport de la session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier ainsi que du document contenant les rapports de la 65ème session du Comité du Programme et de la 74ème session du Comité financier.

Vous vous souviendrez que lors de la 25ème session de la Conférence de la FAO, qui se tint en novembre 1991 fut adoptée la Résolution 5/91 qui prévoit que le Directeur général prend les dispositions nécessaires pour transmettre un rapport par l'intermédiaire du Comité des finances et du Comité du Programme. La Résolution 4/91 demande au Directeur général de soumettre au Conseil à sa 102ème session - c'est-à-dire la présente session - par l'intermédiaire du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier le rapport, sur les progrès accomplis, quant aux suites données au budget-programme approuvé.

**Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas):** Voy a leer un breve Informe sobre la Ejecución del Presupuesto del Programa aprobado para 1992-93.

Este tema fue examinado por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en septiembre, de conformidad con las orientaciones de la Conferencia. Yo fui quien presidió la reunión de los dos Comités cuando se trató este tema. Por ello, tengo el privilegio de transmitir al Consejo las opiniones de los dos Comités.

No voy a informar sobre la situación actual de las contribuciones pendientes al Presupuesto Ordinario, al Fondo de Operaciones y a la Cuenta Especial de Reserva, puesto que la Secretaria ya hizo eso en días pasados. Por lo tanto, voy a limitarme únicamente a los puntos que merecen la atención de los Comités.

En primer lugar, acogemos con satisfacción el renovado compromiso de los Estados Unidos de América de saldar rápidamente las cuotas asignadas, así como



de abonar el primer plazo de los atrasos. Es esta una novedad muy positiva. A este respecto, naturalmente nos permitimos los dos Comités renovar a todos los Estados Miembros a que abonen rápida e íntegramente los pagos correspondientes tanto a sus atrasos como a las cuotas corrientes.

En segundo lugar, los Comités elogiaron el enfoque adoptado por el Director General con respecto a la ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto aprobado para 1992-93. Los Comités estuvieron de acuerdo en que, en medio de todas las dificultades que había tenido que afrontar, el Director General había elegido la línea de acción más realista.

En tercer lugar, los Comités tomaron nota con pesar de las repercusiones en los programas de la reducción de las asignaciones, esto ha sido una cosa triste debido al nivel de presupuesto y ha sido aprobado. Los miembros de ambos Comités expresaron su preocupación por el hecho de que habían resultado perjudicados programas prioritarios. No obstante, reconocemos que se han protegido las prioridades establecidas en la medida de lo posible. En particular, la mayoría de los Comités atribuyen importancia al hecho de que no ha resultado perjudicado el Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

En cuarto lugar, los Comités estuvieron de acuerdo con el procedimiento y con la utilización del pago del primer plazo de los atrasos de los Estados Unidos.

Por último, los Comités concluyeron expresando su viva esperanza de que los elementos positivos expuestos en el documento que se les presenta surtan plenamente efecto lo antes posible. Hemos aprobado los objetivos del Director General para conseguir la ejecución máxima del Programa de Trabajo aprobado y continuar aplicando sus prudentes criterios en la administración de los recursos de que dispone la Organización.

Me he atenido a estos cinco puntos, haciendo una exposición breve y creo que la Secretaría puede completar resaltando los detalles sobre los puntos a los que me he referido y que fueron acordados por los Comités.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais attirer l'attention des membres du Conseil sur l'importance de ce point de l'ordre du jour. En effet, il concerne la vie même de l'Organisation puisqu'il s'agit de l'exécution du budget et de la situation dans laquelle s'est trouvé le Directeur général au début de l'année 1992, pour tenter, avec des moyens financiers fortement réduits, de faire le maximum en consentant un certain nombre de sacrifices qui, incontestablement, ont été de nature à porter atteinte à la capacité de l'Organisation d'assumer sa tâche.

Ce point, particulièrement important, suscitera j'en suis sûr, de nombreuses réactions de la part du Conseil.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, after the introduction that you have given to this Item, and the statement by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, my task is considerably easier.

You, Mr Chairman, have set the stage for this Progress Report by recalling Conference Resolution 4/91. The fact is that it was the Conference which requested the Director-General to submit this Report through the Programme and

Finance Committees to this Session of the Council, in the context of the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for this biennium.

As you recall, Mr Chairman, the Conference approved the Programme of Work of US\$679.9 million, but at the same time, approved a net base budgetary appropriation of US\$645.6 million; that is to say, with a gap of US\$31.3 million in meeting the budgetary provision required for the implementation of all approved activities.

At the same time, I think it is very necessary to recall that this unprecedented approval of the Conference was - and I quote from the Conference Report, paragraph 198 - "based on a specific commitment from the United States of America regarding the amounts and timing of its payments relating to current assessments and arrears."

The financial situation which the Council has already considered, shows the healthy developments which have taken place so far during this year. As you have fully debated, I do not need to comment on it further.

Let me then turn to the aspects which the Director-General considered in directing the work of the Organization and implementing the approved Programme of Work during this year. In the document we have tried to describe the careful and cautious approach taken by the Director-General in making the allotments to all units for 1992. The initial allotments were subjected to a process of financial planning which has been described in the document, and following the review of the financial plans by the issuance of some supplementary allotments, following the receipt of the first instalment of the US arrears. These have been reviewed and discussed with and by the Programme and Finance Committees, whose reactions and endorsement have just been given to you by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

One of the issues which will, no doubt, be in the forefront of your considerations is the issue of priorities. Is there a methodology, is there a set of principles which have been followed in the implementation of the approved Programme Budget?

Let me start by recalling briefly that the priorities which are in this Programme of Work are not the priorities of the Secretariat. These are the priorities which the Conference approved when it approved the Programme of Work. These priorities are based on the methodology which has been set by the Conference itself. It was as a result of the FAO Review, the Review of the goals and the objectives of FAO during 1988 and 1989, that the Conference accepted and set the guidelines of priority setting. These guidelines which are in the Programme of Work and Budget document, do bear recall because they are very pertinent and very brief. There are five guidelines: firstly, articulation and justification of the problem to be addressed by FAO; secondly, evidence of FAO's comparative advantage in the problem of sector to which priority is given; thirdly, the benefit of the priority activity to a broad segment of FAO's membership; fourthly, the compatibility of the priority activity with the recognized roles of FAO; and fifthly, complementarity with other priorities - that is to say, between the priorities themselves.

The priorities were then set by the Conference in the approved Programme of Work and Budget. By issuing reduced allotments for 1992, the Director-General did emphasize these priorities to all Programme managers, and reiterated that these Programme priorities had to be protected to the maximum extent possible.

The most outstanding example I can give of this is the fact that the Technical Cooperation Programme has not been cut.

However, as the Council will note, and we have noted, from the document which describes the implications of reduced allotments on Programme activities, it is evident that not every single activity, even among the priority sectors, can be totally protected.

There are two aspects I would urge the Council to bear in mind: firstly, that even where priority activities have been affected, we have tried to be judicious in selecting those for reduced implementation or for postponement or even, in a few instances, for cancellation, those activities which are not at the core of priorities. Secondly, the implications in terms of reduced Programme implementation are supposed to be a process of regeneration. By this I mean that, as the resources have become available, as the allotments are increased, and, particularly in the coming year, if the organizational units can be assured of the requisite level of allotments, we in the Secretariat intend to pursue the implementation of the approved Programme with vigour. It is the intention of the Director-General to ensure the maximum implementation of the Programme of Work approved by the Conference.

The Programme and Finance Committees have commended this approach of the Director-General. They have agreed with the approach and the use of the first instalment of the payment of arrears by the United States.

In conclusion, I can only say that the continued improvement of the financial situation which you all recognize is a responsibility of Member Nations. It will permit, if exercised as we expect, the Director-General to fulfil the expectations of you, the Member Nations, for the implementation of the improved Programme of Work. The Programme and Finance Committees, and you, Sir, in the Council, will have the opportunity to see the further developments and to assess them at your Session in June next year, the developments which have taken place between now and then, and to make an assessment of the balance of the biennium.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais clairement souligner quelle est la portée de la Résolution 4/91 de la Conférence qui a approuvé un Programme de travail et budget d'un montant total de 676,9 millions de dollars mais qui n'a ouvert qu'un crédit de 645,6 millions de dollars, c'est-à-dire inférieur de 31,3 millions de dollars, tenant compte de l'engagement qui a été cité in extenso. comme M. Shah vient de le rappeler, au paragraphe 198 du rapport de la Conférence.

Le Programme de travail et budget doit être exécuté, mais n'a pu l'être, compte tenu de la situation de trésorerie de 1992, et des sacrifices ont dû être consentis, bien que, compte tenu du rétablissement de la situation financière tout au moins partiel de la FAO, un effort tout particulier devra être déployé dès maintenant et au cours de l'année 1993, pour exécuter dans son intégralité le Programme de travail et budget, tel qu'il a été décidé par la Conférence de novembre 1991.

Donc, il me paraît extrêmement important, pour éviter toute équivoque, de constater que pour des raisons de trésorerie en 1992 des sacrifices ont dû être consentis, étant entendu que dès le rétablissement de la situation financière il était indispensable de prévoir les mesures adéquates voulues

pour que puisse se réaliser la volonté de la Conférence d'exécuter intégralement le Programme de travail et budget 1992-1993.

Si un certain nombre d'activités ont dû être sacrifiées en 1992, il est clair que dans toute la mesure du possible la situation devra se normaliser et qu'un effort tout particulier devra être déployé en 1993.

Je demanderai maintenant aux Membres du Conseil qui désirent intervenir sur cette question de bien vouloir s'inscrire.

Nous avons comme orateurs inscrits: Chypre, le Liban, l'Inde, l'Australie, le Congo, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, le Royaume-Uni, la Suède, l'Allemagne, la République islamique d'Iran, le Canada, le Japon, Trinidad et Tobago.

**Christodoulos CHRISTODOULOU (Cyprus):** We welcome the progress report of the Director-General and the views of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. The approval of the Programme of Work and Budget by the Conference for 1992-93 has involved an unprecedented situation. The Conference has asked for the implementation of the full Programme of Work. At the same time, it set the level of appropriation at US\$31 million less. It did so on the explicit understanding of the timing and amounts of arrears to be paid by the major contributor. We are pleased to note that the first instalment of these payments has been received, and we trust that further payments will follow as envisaged.

In the circumstances the Director-General has been wise to follow a cautious course in limiting initial allotments and making additional allotments as resources become available. Inevitably, this has involved reducing and postponing the implementation of some approved programmes. We regret that this had to be done at all. However, as it was unavoidable we are satisfied that it has been done with circumspection and with a view to limited damage. In particular, we are pleased that the Technical Cooperation Programme has not been subject to any reduction.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Je remercie M. Di Mottola, Président du Comité financier, pour son excellente introduction, et également M. Shah pour le complément d'information qu'il a donné au Conseil à propos du rapport du Directeur général sur l'exécution du budget-programme approuvé pour 1992-93.

Nous savons pertinemment que le Directeur général a dû faire des sacrifices importants, dans les premiers mois de cette année, pour mettre en oeuvre le budget-programme, malgré l'insuffisance des versements des contributions. Nous ne pouvons donc qu'exprimer notre gratitude au Directeur général pour ses efforts dans ce domaine, et nous voudrions également remercier le Secrétariat qui a su mettre en oeuvre ce programme avec des ressources limitées.

Nous saisissons cette occasion pour réitérer notre gratitude et notre appréciation aux Etats-Unis qui sont les plus gros contributeurs de l'Organisation, et qui ont payé leur contribution pour 1992, ce qui a permis à l'Organisation de continuer l'exécution du budget-programme, sans avoir recours aux emprunts.

Nous voudrions lancer un appel aux Etats Membres qui auraient des retards des contributions pour 1992, pour qu'ils paient leurs contributions afin de faciliter le travail de l'Organisation.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** On behalf of my delegation, I thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for introducing the subject. I also compliment Mr Shah on his lucid and clear comments as usual.

Looked at in the background of the approved Programme of Work amounting to US\$676.9 million against which an appropriation of only US\$645.6 million was allowed, thus leaving a gap of US\$31.3 million, along with anticipated income shortfalls due to non-payment and late payment of assessed contributions by members, my delegation fully appreciates the action of the Director-General in making a conservative and realistic allocation of less than 50 percent for the first year of the current biennium, as indicated on page 9 of the document.

My delegation fully endorses this approach and is pleased to note that the allocation to the Technical Cooperation Programme has been proportionately maintained for the first year without any cuts.

My Government attaches very high priority to this programme of FAO. Not only does it support the current allocation but it would like to see the total allocation to this programme as a percentage of the Programme of Work and Budget increased to 14 percent in pursuance of the Resolution of the FAO Conference.

While I am on the subject, I should like to mention that a new category of TCP, that is Category C, was approved by the FAO Council/Conference in 1985 to support technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, research networks and twinning of institutions. It was recognized that the support of the TCDC will be catalytic in nature and participating countries will meet as much of the local costs as their capacities permit. The Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 document estimated that roughly 10 percent of the TCP resources would go to the new Category C. This is paragraph 26, chapter 4 of document C 87/3. The Review of Field Programmes 1986-90, however, indicates that during the period 1986-90 this category accounts for only 3 percent of TCP resources, that is US\$5.5 million out of US\$174.4 million. This is paragraph 3.64 of document C 91/4. This calls for a more positive and forward looking approach without compromising the basic TCP criteria and TCP prerequisites.

Close to 40 percent of the approved projects in Category C have been in the field of training, thus underlining the importance of manpower development through the use of indigenous resources and capacities of developing countries. Investment in human resources development has long term sustainable and multiplying effects. We believe that this trend should be encouraged and accelerated.

My delegation has noted with satisfaction the improvement that has been made in the receipt of current assessed contribution which would definitely ease the financial pressure on the Organization. We are also hopeful that not only the cuts, slowing down and deferment of programmes in priority sectors relating to environment and sustainable development, policy advice, women development, and TCDC, will now be restored, but also the complete Programme

of Work and Budget will be implemented as per the normal allocations without any sacrifice. This is the wish which you expressed, Mr Chairman, and we wholly concur with it.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** We thank you, Mr Chairman, and Mr Shah for your excellent introductions. Australia is a member of the Programme Committee which considered this report at its Sixty-fifth Session in September. I would, however, in this larger forum, like to reiterate some of Australia's views on the Director-General's report.

At first sight document CL 102/13 - the Director-General's Progress Report on the Implementation of the Approved Programme Budget 1992-93 - appears to be a gloomy one. With the provisional allotments there are cutbacks and reductions to virtually all programmes and projects, some of which each of us here holds dear.

There are, however, some bright spots. It is gratifying to note from paragraph 36 of the report that some trends point to a more favourable prospect of enhanced implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget. This has been reinforced by the knowledge that contributions and arrears payment have been received from our two largest contributors.

The Organization is to be congratulated for facing up to the tough decisions required in implementing this biennium's programme budget. It is noted from paragraph 27 and 29 that the Director-General endeavoured to spare resource cuts to priority areas as much as possible.

Naturally there are a number of areas where Australia is disappointed to see a scaling down of activities as reflected in Appendix 2 of CL 102/13. I am sure all countries and regions represented here will have similar disappointments as regards areas of interest to them. In our case the areas include the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent Clause, reduced activity levels under Plans of Action for Women in Development, reduced trade and trade policy analysis and the reduction in services to member countries under the Tropical Forests Action Programme.

In other areas of interest to us, work has been slowed down or postponed. These include work on the recommendations of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and updating trade barrier data for forest products. In areas where a slowing down or postponement has occurred we would ask the Secretariat to ensure that such projects are not forgotten or slip off the table and that they stay on the agenda by way of the Medium-Term Plan for a time when, hopefully, there is a sufficient increase in resources available to enable their implementation.

From a regional point of view there are a number of areas where the stated impact in Appendix 2 is cause for concern. These include a delay in the study and development of International Schemes for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of Lands in Asia and the Pacific; and the postponement until 1993 of expert consultations on research management in small and least developed Asia-Pacific countries.

Of particular concern to the small Southwest Pacific countries so dependent on their fisheries will be the reductions in this area including reduced direct assistance to member countries in fisheries development planning,

investment and small-scale fisheries development and management; reduced assistance to developing countries in the improvement of national statistical systems; and scaled down development of stock assessment methods as well as a number of environmental impact assessment studies.

We have pointed to a number of areas in which Australia has a particular interest or which are of interest to the countries in our region.

I would now like to turn to Africa. We are all well aware of the disastrous food situation in large areas of that continent. Apart from through our own news sources, the situation is made abundantly clear in the FAO's State of Food and Agriculture and the reports FAO prepared for consideration at the World Food Council session in Nairobi in June of this year.

There will be times when the focus of our attention will shift to different areas of the world - those where human despair and need is greatest. At present it is firmly drawn to Africa. Australia, therefore, does not consider that now is the time for FAO to be cutting back or cancelling its work in Africa.

Appendix 2 refers to a number of programmes and projects where such reductions in FAO's work is anticipated. They include severe reduction of field demonstrations on livestock grazing and feeds for East Africa; two national workshops in Africa on project preparation in the area of land tenure and agrarian structures being cancelled; and an African regional workshop on women in small-scale irrigation and a French version publication on women in irrigated agriculture in Africa being cancelled.

Australia expressed these concerns at the September meeting of the Programme Committee and joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. The concerns of Australia and other members of those Committees regarding Africa are reflected in the reports of the meetings. The Programme Committee urged that every consideration be given to reinstating priority activities, particularly for the African region as soon as the financial situation of the Organization so permits.

However, the situation in Africa since that time has not improved. In fact in particular areas it has got worse.

Australia, therefore, hopes that the wider body of members represented on this Council endorses the views expressed in the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees. We would hope to see this Council recommend priority being given to the reinstatement of cut-backs to allotments, to date, in African projects as additional funding from contributions and arrears are received. We hope that other members will support this and that this view is registered in this Council's report.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué de l'Australie de son intervention particulièrement positive. Je crois que, de fait, nous ne pouvons que souhaiter que la diminution d'activités enregistrées en 1992 se traduise par une augmentation d'activités en 1993 de façon à réaliser l'objectif et à répondre aux préoccupations exprimées par le délégué de l'Australie, notamment en ce qui concerne les petits pays insulaires de même que l'entièreté du Programme Afrique qui, compte tenu de sa situation, doit recevoir la priorité.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Comme les orateurs qui nous ont précédés, nous aimerions pour commencer remercier le Président du Comité financier, l'Ambassadeur Di Mottola, et M. Shah pour leurs exposés introductifs.

Nous voudrions également saisir cette occasion pour remercier le Directeur général d'avoir bien voulu donner suite à la Résolution 4/91 de la Conférence en nous soumettant ce rapport intérimaire sur l'exécution du Budget Programme approuvé pour 1992-93.

Monsieur le Président, comme vous avez bien voulu le rappeler, le présent rapport est l'un des sujets importants de la présente session du Conseil puisqu'il traite des matières touchant la capacité même de la FAO.

L'examen de ce rapport a lieu après l'examen de la situation financière de l'Organisation, la semaine dernière, qui est du reste peu brillante, sachant le contexte exceptionnel dans lequel ce Budget Programme a été approuvé et sans que cela constitue un précédent. Nous estimons que ce rapport incite d'ores et déjà, pour les prochains exercices, à une réflexion de fond sur deux éléments au moins, à savoir le prix de l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget par consensus et le respect de l'exécution de la totalité du programme approuvé et, par conséquent, la nécessité que la FAO ait à sa disposition les ressources nécessaires pour l'exécution de celui-ci.

Nous serons, nous aussi, brefs. C'est ainsi que, pour aller plus en détails, nous voudrions commenter le paragraphe 18 du document qui nous est soumis, simplement pour dire que nous approuvons l'extrême prudence avec laquelle le Directeur général essaie de mettre en oeuvre ce Budget Programme qui a été approuvé, face à l'insuffisance des ressources mises à sa disposition.

Le deuxième paragraphe que nous aimerions également approuver est le paragraphe 25 dont la première phrase se lit comme suit:

"Il ne faut jamais oublier que la FAO n'est pas une organisation fournissant une aide à fonds perdus ou finançant des projets pour qui un manque temporaire de ressources se traduirait normalement par une simple contraction du volume de l'aide apportée ou des projets financés."

Nous approuvons aussi totalement la dernière phrase de ce paragraphe 25, dans la mesure où elle dit: "la solution simple qui consiste à répartir sur tous les programmes les effets de la contraction des ressources n'est pas applicable". Nous sommes tout à fait de cet avis.

Ce faisant, nous nous félicitons que, face à l'immensité des problèmes financiers qui se posent à l'Organisation, le Secrétariat se soit employé à maintenir telles qu'approuvées par la Conférence un certain nombre d'activités traitant des domaines prioritaires que nous voudrions rappeler, à savoir l'environnement et le développement durable, les préparatifs et le suivi de la CNUED, les activités concernant les ressources génétiques, la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, le CMIA et l'appui de la FAO aux négociations d'Uruguay.

Nous nous félicitons, comme toutes les autres délégations des pays en développement, que le PCT ait été épargné par les coupures qui ont dû être opérées du fait des pressions financières qui s'exercent sur l'Organisation.



Comme toutes les autres délégations, nous exprimons l'espoir de voir la situation se rétablir afin que l'Organisation soit remise en selle et qu'elle puisse utiliser toute la capacité de son personnel, et l'espoir que les coupures auxquelles nous assistons aujourd'hui concernant des programmes aussi importants que ceux de la pêche, de l'agriculture elle-même et des forêts ne fassent plus l'objet de nos prochains débats.

Nous sommes également particulièrement préoccupés des incidences que l'exécution du programme actuel a sur nos représentations régionales; et ici, une fois de plus, nous souhaitons que la situation des Etats Membres s'améliore afin que tout le monde puisse s'acquitter de ses contributions et faciliter la tâche de l'Organisation qui est, en premier lieu, de vaincre la faim sur notre planète.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, at the outset, let me make just one correction to Mr Shah's very helpful introductory remarks. The US\$22.6 million we paid towards our arrears in 1992 was actually the second instalment. The United States paid US\$13.7 million towards arrears as our first instalment in 1991.

The United States welcomes FAO's effort to respond to the terms of Conference Resolution 4/91 which call for the submission of a report to this Council on progress in implementing the 1992-93 budget. However, document CL 102/13, "Progress Report of the Director-General on Implementation of the Approved Programme Budget 1992-93" falls short of what we had expected to find in a progress report.

Although Mr Shah's comments helped balance the document, we note that rather than highlighting achievements, FAO, regrettably, chose to underscore what it perceives as programme and financial limitations. This, in spite of FAO's greatly improved cash flow - due, in part, to the significant gains made on contracts for the forward purchase of its lire requirements, and the additional US\$33 million in special assessments imposed on Member States last year. Given this, we also believe the report focuses disproportionately on the US payment situation. If we look at 1990 and 1991, payments from the United States have reversed the negative trend, consistent with the commitment we made at the Conference last year. However, we note that while the overall cash flow situation of the Organization has improved, an increasing number of countries have made no payment to the Organization, as of November 4. While we realize that many of the countries that have not paid are grappling with intractable social and economic conditions, this should not excuse any country from the obligations of membership in any international Organization, including FAO.

Turning to the programme content of CL 102/13, we note that a number of meetings and publications have been cancelled, postponed or reduced to arrive at a base budgetary level of US\$645.9 million. We welcome these cost savings and believe that FAO can go a step further by reducing the length and number of meetings and publications and finding more effective, relevant and direct ways of addressing new and changing demands. In fact this document implicitly confirms that the various cancellations, postponements and reductions have had imperceptible impact on the delivery of high priority activities.

We were pleased to note in paragraph 29 that an effort was made to allocate adequate funding in such high-priority areas as plant genetics resources and

WAICENT. At the same time, we believe that downward adjustments could have been made in FAO's technical cooperation program without any negative repercussions, given its unprogrammed, carry-over nature.

Turning to the budget process for the 1994-95 biennium, we have taken careful note of the Director-General's comments made November 9 on the next budget. We would like to share some of our preliminary thoughts on this important issue.

First, for the current budget cycle, the 1992-93 budget reflected no growth in discretionary expenditures and maximum absorption of non-discretionary cost increases, all at a budget level of some US\$645.9 million. This proposal facilitated the adoption of the 1992-93 budget by consensus and essentially full funding of the US assessment for calendar year 1992. Similarly, at the upcoming January 1993 joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees, we would expect to review a budget outline reflecting no growth in discretionary expenditures.

Second, let me state our clear understanding that the US\$645.9 million figure should be the base for the 1994-95 budget. We made this point very clear at the November 1991 Conference when the 1992-93 budget was adopted.

Mr Chairman, I wish to reiterate the United States' commitment to work closely and cooperatively in the months ahead with FAO and other Member States to obtain a supportable consensus budget. Indeed, we look forward to a fruitful dialogue this coming January on the Director-General's budget outline for 1994-95. My delegation attaches great importance to this first step in the budget formulation process, and welcomed the overwhelming support of Member States for the adoption of Conference Resolution 5/91 which institutionalized the budget outline process.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il me semble que vous êtes resté dans le vague quant à votre désir de restreindre la longueur de certaines publications et de diminuer le nombre de réunions. Or, il serait souhaitable de spécifier de quelles publications et de quelles réunions il s'agit car il est bon que les membres du Conseil soient saisis de propositions précises et concrètes.

En ce qui concerne le versement des arriérés, deux versements ont été effectués: un de 13 millions et un de 42 millions. Je souligne toutefois que si la situation de la trésorerie s'est améliorée et si les liquidités sont actuellement disponibles, c'est seulement depuis une époque relativement très récente.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** Perhaps I could start by congratulating the Director-General on what we regard as his conservative approach to expenditure for 1992-93 and the efforts, as indicated most helpfully at the outset by Mr Shah, that have clearly been made to prioritize activities on the basis on FAO's mandate and comparative advantage.

Whilst the paper before us presents a rather gloomy picture, we are particularly pleased to read, especially in paragraph 36, that developments point to a more favourable prospect for enhanced implementation of the Programme of Work approved by the Conference. It was not altogether clear just how favourable these prospects were until Mr Shah made his very helpful

introduction. I must say that I took it from what he said that all does certainly not appear to be doom and gloom.

Could I now turn to another very important area which Mr Shah raised and that is the whole question of priorities?

Whilst attempts have obviously been made to prioritize activities, again on the basis of FAO's mandate and comparative advantage, we do think there is scope for this process to be taken further. We are concerned by the reductions in the Global Information Services activities. Whilst I do not have chapter and verse to respond to the point made by the Chairman a second ago, we can pass those separately to the Secretariat.

We also have concerns about the slowdown in implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, particularly given the comments of the Programme Committee in paragraphs 1.24 and 1.25 of document CL 102/4 and the apparent across-the-board reduction in support for forestry. On forestry, the Programme Committee hopes that FAO's capacity in this area will be further strengthened. Paragraph 1.67 of the document refers to this.

These are, in our view, priority areas for FAO and we believe they should have been shielded to a greater extent from the cuts which necessarily had to be made.

That said, we do believe that the process of prioritization must continue apace. Whilst we do, of course, accept that what may be a priority for some members is not necessarily a priority to others, we believe that there is still a need for further collectivity, perhaps one might call it, and that there are some areas which could be curtailed or even cancelled altogether. Indeed, I think that was one of the points Mr Shah made in his introduction. It is a concern of the Programme and Finance Committee which we had noted.

New priorities seem almost inevitably to emerge daily. It is quite clear that the funds are not always going to be available for such increased activities, or indeed to enable the continuation of ongoing activities.

As has already been said by a number of speakers, difficult choices have therefore to be made. We believe that FAO has to make those choices and indeed follow some of the rather tough decisions which very clearly the Secretariat has had to face so far and which have been made very clear to us. It does mean confronting the issues in a very positive way by re-prioritizing activities and dropping those which are of low priority and which do not fall within FAO's comparative advantage.

We are particularly concerned, I have to say, at references in the paper to the increased subsidy from the Regular Programme and the widening of the support cost funding gap. We will be addressing bilateral Trust Fund support when we come to discuss the relevant paper under Agenda Item 16, so I will not go into this now.

As for UNDP Trust Fund support costs, we very fully understand the concern expressed in a number of the Council papers at the flow of project approvals and support cost receipts from UNDP since the successor arrangements very belatedly, one has to lament, have taken effect. We believe that it is extremely important that UNDP implements the new arrangements quickly. We will continue strongly to urge them to do so. However, we believe that a

satisfactory system will be in place relatively soon and we very much hope that the agency receipts - and this, of course, affects a number of agencies - will soon be regularized.

There is one final point. We were slightly intrigued by Appendix 1 on page 9 of the document and in particular Chapter 4 on the TCP. The figures quoted for Chapter 4 of the TCP are the only ones shown under "net base budget appropriation" as the approved Programme of Work; all the others are reduced.

I note that the explanation at the foot of the page says that the TCP allotment is pro memoria. I appreciate what the Chairman of the Finance Committee said. It would be very helpful if the Secretariat could explain why, as it seems to us anyway, the TCP has apparently been ring-fenced.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je me permettrai très respectueusement de faire remarquer que ce n'est pas le Secrétariat qui fixe les priorités et les choix mais les organes directeurs de l'Organisation. Il est souhaitable que les membres du Conseil expriment clairement leurs priorités et leurs choix en ce qui concerne les frais de soutien. Nous n'allons donc pas aborder cette question maintenant puisqu'elle sera discutée au point 16.

En ce qui concerne le PCT, je rappelle la résolution de la Conférence qui en a fixé le montant à 14 pour cent, mais cette résolution n'a pu être respectée pour des raisons majeures. Je crois que tout le monde l'a vivement regretté, notamment au sein du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme. C'est la raison pour laquelle ce programme prioritaire n'a pas connu de diminution en 1992, étant entendu qu'un effort particulier sera fait pour l'ensemble de travail et budget pour 1993.

**Rolf AKESSON (Sweden):** The financial situation provides the background and the harsh reality for this item. The amount of outstanding contributions is of great interest in that respect.

We - and I am now speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark - have noticed a certain decrease in that respect and also an increase in the percentage of assessed contributions received. The improvement in the financial situation of the Organization is modest and we once again urge all member countries to pay their assessed contributions on time and to eliminate their arrears as soon as possible.

We very much hope that this will be the case, especially since it would mean that external borrowing and recourse to other exceptional measures which we dislike can be avoided in the future.

At the same time, we find it important that we do not reduce our efforts to try to find a system that would eliminate, or at least reduce, the likelihood that in the future a situation might again arise when the work of the Organization is negatively affected by financial problems due to non-fulfilment of financial obligations.

We fully support the Budgetary Appropriation of US\$645.6 million adopted for the 1992-1993 biennium. Whilst we take it for granted that all commitments regarding the Programme of Work and Budget and Conference Resolution 4/91 will be fully respected by all parties, just as we take it that the Secretariat

will do its utmost to contain cost increases, we fully appreciate the cautious approach taken by the Secretariat in setting the allotments for 1992. Of course, we appreciate the detailed information given in the document in front of us.

We do not expect the necessary reductions of programmes and chapters to be perfectly uniform but we do not quite understand the reasoning behind the relatively higher reductions made in the Technical and Economic Programmes under Chapter 2 and in particular for fisheries and forestry. We consider the programme under Chapter 2 to be the very backbone of FAO's activities, without which other activities, including support to field programmes, cannot be sustained in the long-run.

Of course, relative priority to activities outside Chapter 2 could be temporarily justified if it is due to timely and orderly implementation of ongoing activities but we would appreciate an explanation on this matter which has also been stressed in the Report of the Finance Committee.

We have the impression that the allotments do not necessarily reflect priorities in the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan in all respects. This applies, for example, to TCP, the Office of the Director-General and Plant Genetic Resources activities.

Finally, we learn from the document that the Regular Programme for the next biennium may have to support the Field Programme with an additional US\$8 million, and we should like to have a further explanation and further information on this point.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** The financial gap between the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget and the approved Budgetary Appropriations for the current biennium clearly impairs the Organization's ability to fulfil major tasks. For this reason, it is to be welcomed that the Director-General has submitted this progress report, which also responds to the demand of member countries to make the process of Programme implementation more transparent to them.

The report deals with two closely connected aspects: the financial situation in the first year and the Secretariat's steps to implement most of the Programme activities despite the known financial constraints. Fortunately, a look at the latest figures in document CL 102/LIM/1, paragraph 5, gives rise to optimism. The repeated appeal for a stricter compliance with every Member Nation's duty to pay its contribution on time, or at least within the financial year, as well as accumulated arrears, has apparently been heard by some, including the one mainly responsible for this unfortunate situation. The percentage of contributions outstanding as of 4 November has declined to less than 11 percent. However, this favourable picture is darkened by the increased number of Member Nations which have not paid at all. My Government, therefore, is strongly in favour of practicable arrangements which honour the fulfilment of financial obligations by means of an effective incentive system. This would help the more favourable development forecast in paragraph 36 of document CL 102/13 to become reality.

My delegation shares the view contained in paragraph 25 that "the 'simple' option of distributing resource shortfalls 'across-the-board' is clearly not applicable". This selective approach obeys the generally recognized priority

principle of our Organization. It appears well reflected in the measures by the Secretariat described in paragraph 29.

My delegation would like to endorse the principle of regeneration for Programme activities provisionally cut back, as explained by the Deputy Director-General, Mr Shah, in his very clear introductory remarks to our debate.

The summarized cuts in programme implementation as described in Appendix 2 of the document under discussion are deplorable but seem to be the inevitable consequence of the known dilemma. However, in our view, this synthesis lacks one element to enable us to become better aware of the actual implications of the cuts for important programme areas, i.e. quantification. A juxtaposition of the money originally earmarked and the actual cuts might have improved the concreteness of the information, for which my delegation is grateful. I should also like to express our appreciation for the work done by the Programme and Finance Committees on this aspect.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Puis-je vous rappeler que le Plan d'incitation a été décidé par la Conférence. Ce Plan d'incitation au paiement rapide des contributions entrera en vigueur de manière expérimentale au 1<sup>er</sup> janvier de l'année qui vient.

**Ebrahim MAYGOLINEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** As indicated in document CL 102/13, there are repeated reductions of the Organization's activities and cancellations of several sub-programmes, as well as postponement of large numbers of programmes for the period 1992-93. This has led to serious damage in the objectives and functions of the Organization. If this continues in such a manner, it could lead to the erosion of FAO's professional credibility and its leadership position in connection with the many areas of its mandates and activities.

Regarding the good news given by Mr Shah and the improving financial situation of our Organization, in order to maintain the quality of our Organization's activities and to promote its professional credibility, great attention should be given to this problem in this session of the Council and appropriate action should be taken in order to remove this constraint from the Organization. On behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would ask FAO to implement the Programme of Work and Budget which has been approved in the normal situation.

**David SHERWOOD (Canada):** My delegation has already had an opportunity to discuss this report in the Programme Committee. Therefore, in my comments, I wish simply to underline a few key points we consider important. But first let me extend my thanks to Mr Di Mottola and Mr Shah for their introduction to this subject.

Canada, at the time of the last FAO Conference in November 1991, viewed very positively the consensus resolution approving the Programme of Work and Budget and Budgetary Appropriations for 1992-93. Member countries shared a sense of optimism that the financial difficulties would be mitigated with a consensus approach. However, the success of a consensus approach requires that all countries meet their financial obligations to FAO in a timely fashion, and it

remains regrettable that some 88 countries have yet to honour their financial obligations, while, no doubt, continuing to insist that the Organization implement in full the agreed programme of work.

Regarding the Programme implications and impacts described in document CL 102/13 resulting from the approved Programme budget with a net budgetary base of US\$645.6 million, it is understandable that a budgetary review and priority-setting exercise was required. Most governments and organizations are faced with the reality of limited resources and continued restraint, and we have to remind ourselves that funds will remain in short supply. In response to these circumstances, and as part of the management process, we look forward to the extension of priority-setting. In our view, this will encourage improved linkages between the Secretariat and the membership and provide greater involvement in decision-making based on readily accessible financial and Programme information. For example, staff costs account for the single most significant part of total resources. It would be advantageous for members to obtain a better understanding of the linkage between shortfalls and the number of vacant posts.

We note, for example, that at the end of August the number of professional posts vacant relative to the stated number of positions allocated in the Programme of Work and Budget for the Regular Programme amounted to 17.8 percent of total positions. If this situation also obtains in respect of general services positions, it would suggest very significant modifications to the actual Programme of Work under way compared to that approved by Conference. Accordingly, we would welcome an overview of whether the delays and cutbacks detailed in the Director-General's report reflect a commensurate level of reduced activity.

Given the improving financial position of FAO, effective progress reporting in the Organization should also make the linkage between remaining shortfalls and implementation or delivery of high-priority activities. Meaningful information of this nature would be of considerable benefit to members of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Given the reality of continued budgetary restraint, this delegation attaches considerable importance to core priorities: namely, measures in the area of environment and sustainable development, follow-up work to UNCED, work on genetic resources, biodiversity, Codex Alimentarius, women in development and reinforcement of FAO's scientific and technical capacity, including emphasis on information collection and dissemination.

In conclusion, comprehensive progress reports can lead to a better understanding of the management process of FAO and the information used to rationalize priority-setting.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué du Canada de son intervention très positive ainsi que des priorités qu'il vient de préciser.

**Haruo ISHII (Japan):** I should like to make a brief statement focusing on a few points. First of all, concerning provisional allotment and financial plans, it is said in paragraph 24 of document CL 102/13 that the provisional allotments were calculated in such a way as to spread the overall impact as equitably as possible, but, under the financial difficulties, there is some

possibility that implementation of the priority-setting, after considering the financial situation, will lead to inequitable results.

Secondly, Japan expects that FAO should ensure its external resources through its intellectual contribution toward the field programmes upstream. In order to do so, while FAO takes into account the necessity for restructuring and strengthening capacity of the General Service staff, Japan requests FAO to consider plans such as the staff retrenchment plan by all measures, such as not recruiting to vacancies, redeployment of staff, and so on. Even if these measures result in an increase of extraordinary expenses, such as termination indemnities, if Member Nations can be convinced that they will bring a significant future to FAO, Japan will welcome them.

Finally, as to the base of the 1993-94 Programme of Work and Budget, Japan supports the view of the USA.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** It will be appreciated that the Progress Report on the implementation of the approved Programme budget of FAO is of particular interest to my delegation and to the countries which represent the 13 Member States of the CARICOM sub-region of Latin America and the Caribbean Region. Countries such as mine do have a substantive interest in, and look on with extreme vigilance at, activities as they unfold in relation to the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. This reflects very fully the extent of our dependence, given the lack of critical mass that we do have on the technical and scientific support of this Organization.

It was very clear that what we approved at Conference 1991 was a Programme of Work and Budget of significantly reduced expectations, which could not speak as fully as it might to the needs and requirements of development support for agriculture, forestry and fisheries in many of our countries.

In the circumstances, the Organization has had to fashion a Programme within the broad guidelines of the priorities set out in the goals and operations reviewed, and further refined by Conference in accordance with financial resources.

We understand and we accept, but we do express some regret that many areas of support which are of risk to all countries have had to be reduced, postponed and/or cancelled. Permit me to reflect on a few: scaled-down demonstration of activities related to sustainable farming practices; the slow-down of implementation of cooperation with assistance to national plant genetic resources programmes; delays in initiating activities on sustainable plant production systems, agro-forestry, biological processes including plant biotechnology, because of a meeting of the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission; reduced advice on feed utilization.

We go on to matters related to fisheries: the scaled-down development of stock assessment methods, as well as a number of environmental impact assessment studies are of tremendous importance to island states, I would reflect. Also, there is the major postponement of the filling of vacancies in the Forestry Division which will have an impact on the support to the Field Programmes and the services provided to members under the much-needed Tropical Forests Action Programme.



While we note in the Appendix which reflects the synthesis of programme impact what happens to the programmes themselves, what we do not know is what is the impact of these postponements, these cancellations and these delays on development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the countries that depend most heavily on FAO for support in these areas.

We congratulate the Secretariat for its display of prudence, sensitivity and concern with which it has gone about the priority setting process. We would especially comment on the fact that the TCP which is the breadline for many of us, has not been affected. This reflects what I would deem to be a balance of interests in support of the needs of developing countries.

We are grateful for the outlook which indicates improved circumstances. We expect, and look forward to, a turn-around in the financial health of the Organization as we move forward to the third millennium.

Finally, I would point out that, in respect of the preparatory activities to a Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95, in approving Resolution 4/91 at Conference in November, it was noted that, notwithstanding the negative budget growth of 4 percent, this was not a precedent for future Programmes of Work and Budget, and that Member States reserve the right to consider on their merit future Programme of Work and Budget proposals as may be submitted by the Director-General.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais signaler qu'il a été dit clairement dans la Résolution 191 que la mesure exceptionnelle prise par la Conférence n'était pas un précédent. Je remercie le délégué de Trinité-et-Tobago de l'avoir souligné.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** As a member of the Finance Committee, I should like to reiterate my delegation's endorsement of the Report of the Programme and Finance Committee which is now being discussed.

However, I should like to stress a few points which I have already stressed during the meeting of the Finance Committee itself. The Philippines delegation regrets that, because of the budgetary gap that has been compounded by the shortfalls in the support costs income, it has caused a great deal of difficulty for the Organization in implementing its Programme of Work and Budget, precisely at a point when there is a greater need to increase food production to feed the growing population of the developing world, whilst at the same time safeguarding the imperatives of sustainable development.

We are happy to hear that in the supplementary information given to us today, there will probably be no need for additional transfers which would require the approval of the Finance Committee between the budgetary chapters. As you know, Mr Chairman, when budgetary transfers occur, it is usually from the transfer from the areas of General Service, the provision of General Service, General Support Service and common service, from the technical and economic programmes of FAO. We know that support in common services is necessary, but this is not what makes the difference in the work of FAO in the countries themselves.

Therefore, we are happy to hear that these transfers will not become necessary in the near future, because as you know, the transfers will have to occur from

the two chapters, 5 and 6, from the other economic and technical programmes because in Chapters 5 and 6 there are mainly provisions for salaries and there is no room for further cuts. Therefore, if a transfer occurs, it usually comes from other technical divisions.

Furthermore, we are happy that there is a reconstitution of the reserve funds which points to a more favourable prospect for enhanced implementation of the Programme of Work approved by the Conference.

At the same time, we note in paragraph 33 that the ability of the Organization to provide advisory assistance to member countries and adequate technical backstopping to technical projects has been put under strain in several substantive areas and has been negatively affected.

As you know, the Group of 77 has always held the view that the major roles of FAO are mutually reinforcing - that is the collection and analysis of information on food, the provision of policy advice and the provision of technical assistance. The Regular Programme makes its technical and analytical work available to field projects and in return receives data and feedback from the field to strengthen the technical content of its own activities and to update its information. Agricultural development is time- and place-specific and country-specific. Any efforts to downgrade the Field Programme could only weaken the Organization's role in promoting agricultural development in developing countries.

The Philippine delegation approves the practical and pragmatic approach taken by the Secretariat in trying to implement, as far as possible, the approved Programme of Work and the priorities as approved by the Governing Bodies of FAO. At the same time, it has to be prudent in allocating resources because of the gap which has already been referred to. In this respect, we approve the approach that has been taken by the Organization, but, at the same time, I should like to stress the point for the need for a stronger internal audit, so that those programmes that are doing very well and those that are not doing very well could be looked into, to see how best the limited resources in the budget could best be appropriated.

With these comments, we endorse the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees in relation to the subject under discussion.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. Caradang, des Philippines, de son intervention particulièrement empreinte de sagesse et d'expérience.

**Moustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je crois que beaucoup de choses ont été dites sur ce sujet. Je tiens à signaler que nous avons étudié les propositions du Directeur général, telles qu'elles figurent dans le document CL 102/13, au moment de la réunion du Comité financier - propositions auxquelles nous avons souscrit.

Il en va de même pour les délibérations de la session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier au cours de la même période. Nous donnons notre appui à ces délibérations telles qu'elles ressortent dans le document CL 102/17.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** La situation financière précaire et tendue de notre Organisation est due aux arriérés de contributions de nombreux Etats Membres dont le principal bailleur de fonds pris individuellement, auquel notre délégation voudrait présenter ses compliments pour l'engagement concret qu'il a pris en réglant, début octobre, une partie de ses arriérés. Nous espérons que cet élan ne va pas s'arrêter et que cet effort sera poursuivi au bénéfice de la FAO.

En ce qui concerne le rapport qui nous est soumis et les commentaires judicieux que nous ont faits M. Shah et l'Ambassadeur Di Mottola, je vois difficilement comment ne pas apprécier les mérites du Directeur général qui a su maintenir un niveau d'exécution du programme assez satisfaisant en partant, ne l'oublions pas, d'un budget à croissance non pas zéro mais négative qui, en réalité, a été le fruit d'un consensus extrêmement laborieux lors de la dernière Conférence.

Je voudrais partager le point de vue exprimé par M. Shah quant à la méthode de définition des priorités qu'il nous a présentée et qui nous paraît la seule applicable en période de crise financière de la nature de celle que nous connaissons et qui oblige à un exercice d'équilibrisme qui, de toute façon, ne pourra jamais satisfaire tout le monde.

La situation critique de l'Afrique doit continuer à mobiliser l'énergie et l'attention du Secrétariat afin de ne pas trop réduire les activités notamment de terrain ainsi que celles du Bureau régional d'Accra. La Côte d'Ivoire approuve donc le maintien du niveau de ressources affectées au Programme de coopération technique qui est pour nous extrêmement fondamental. Le PCT, loin de connaître à l'avenir une réduction de ses ressources, devrait au contraire les voir augmenter. Nous invitons donc le Conseil à appuyer cette recommandation de maintenir les priorités pour l'Afrique, et notamment pour les pays les moins avancés d'entre eux qui connaissent les difficultés que vous savez.

Les perspectives pour le restant de l'exercice biennal telles qu'explicitées au paragraphe 6 du document CL 102/13 paraissent optimistes en raison de l'amélioration constatée ces derniers mois, dans le règlement des arriérés. Il faut donc inciter tous les Etats Membres à accélérer leurs paiements, condition sine qua non pour une application effective et totale du Programme de travail tel qu'adopté lors de la dernière Conférence.

En terminant, la délégation ivoirienne tient à dire l'importance qu'elle accorde au maintien à son meilleur niveau possible du Compte de réserve spécial dont la nature et le statut juridique devraient connaître, selon nous, non seulement un renforcement mais aussi une certaine forme de novation au niveau des Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire pour son intervention. Je lui signale que la question du Compte de réserve spécial sera traitée dans le cadre de l'examen d'un point séparé.

**Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** My country's delegation, having listened to the introduction by Mr Di Mottola, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and the introduction given by Mr Shah on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget, would like to express its

thanks for the information provided. We would also like to compliment the Organization on the way in which it has faced up to these financial constraints, especially as this has not undermined the priorities which were defined.

My country's delegation was particularly pleased to see that the allocations to the TCP are not being affected as we consider that the TCP is of the greatest importance.

My country would also like to call upon the countries which are in arrears to settle their arrears as soon as possible.

**Benson C. MBOGOH (Kenya):** I wish to convey my delegation's compliments to the Secretariat for their report, and to Mr Shah and Mr Di Mottola for their further elaboration of the report.

My delegation has carefully examined the report, and while it notes a slight improvement of 8.3 percent in the total outstanding contributions in 1992 compared with the same period in 1991, the change has regrettably not been significant.

We share the Director-General's predicament of having to absorb a budgetary reduction of US\$31.3 million, or 4.6 percent of the approved Programme of Work and Budget outlays, and we give our qualified support to the conservative approach he has adopted for the 1992 provisional allotments.

We are in agreement with the fundamental principles and considerations taken in deciding on the financial allotments at paragraphs 25 to 31.

However, we are unable to support wholesale major reductions in programmes targeted to highly disadvantaged regions like Africa, or strategic programmes that enhance food security in all poor food-deficit countries. Projects such as the Geographical Information Service's activities, on farm seed development, assistance to national plant protection services, just to name a few, should not be touched, or should be reconsidered. This failure to do so is like cutting off oxygen to a patient in an intensive care unit. On the support costs arrangements or accounts, my delegation notes with trepidation the reported unfavourable scenario for support costs, resulting from reported delays in project approvals under the UNDP successor arrangements and the effect of national execution.

We have stated before, and wish to state it here, that Kenya is in favour of national execution. We consider it the best way forward towards greater self-reliance and enhancement of country capacity building for project and programme development and implementation. However, we are in favour of this being accomplished without undermining FAO's capacity to readjust.

My delegation therefore sees the current problems created for FAO in the new arrangement as transitional, which is inevitable in any planned change from an established to a new system. But we wish to stress that any imperfections in the new system should be identified, and necessary refinements and adjustments made without delay. We would therefore request that UNDP cooperate with FAO in this endeavour.

There is a strong need, for example, for the role of the Project Execution Unit of UNDP to be reassessed, with a view to ensuring that the technical role of FAO and other technical agencies for UNDP funded projects is not rendered redundant by its presence.

Finally, the vital question must now be posed to this body. Simply put, how long is the membership of this august Organization going to keep its own Organization resource starved and still expect it to carry the functions it has mandated to it? No army general, no matter how gallant, can fight a war without arms and ammunition. Yet we have, with extraordinary persistence, sent out this Director-General to do exactly that, and demanded of him to return to base with the loot. This is impossible.

We appeal to all members, and in particular our few large contributing members, to accept the full sacrifice and moral obligation of leadership, and to honour their financial obligations to FAO. To fail to do so, partially or entirely, is to bring down the Organization to its knees, dashing the hopes of millions of poor people around the world.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to say that the problem of support costs will be discussed under another item, Item 16.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** El documento de informe del Director General y las explicaciones vertidas por el Sr. Shah y el Embajador Di Mottola, las cuales agradecemos mucho, a nuestro juicio, Sr. Presidente, encienden un foco rojo de atención que a la delegación mexicana la preocupa mucho.

De la página 13 a la 23 del documento se describe una síntesis del impacto a los programas por razones presupuestales. En ellas de manera clara y específica se nos informa de que todas las ramas de actividades de la FAO sufren los efectos de la falta de recursos: los recursos naturales, los cultivos, la ganadería, la investigación y tecnología, el desarrollo rural, la nutrición, la información, la política alimentaria y agrícola, la pesca y los bosques. Todas las ramas de actividades de la FAO.

La Dirección General ha sido impulsada a revisar en su conjunto el Programa para afrontar escaseces, y lo ha hecho bien, pero no puede de ninguna manera continuar así.

A nuestro juicio todo ello tiene una sola causa. Entendemos las dificultades que afrontan muchos países para dar cumplimiento a los compromisos económicos internacionales; pero éste es real y precisamente el meollo del problema. Sería lamentable que la FAO continuara reduciendo la intensidad de sus actividades o que cancelara algunas de ellas. Sería lamentable que llegáramos a carecer de expertos, de personal especializado, de investigadores; que llegáramos a carecer de capacidad de apoyo para la ejecución de proyectos y para la preparación de planes y programas nacionales.

El desarrollo de muchos países se vería enorme e irremediabilmente dañado y con éste el avance mundial hacia la seguridad alimentaria. Con todo respeto quisiéramos hacer un llamado al pago puntual de las contribuciones. Por nuestra parte ya lo hemos señalado. México cubrirá las suyas a la brevedad posible.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, señor representante de México, por su declaración y por el compromiso del pago de la contribución.

**Saleh SAHBOUN (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, we should like to thank you for the information provided on the present item. We are grateful to Mr Shah for the interesting information he provided. My country's delegation is highly appreciative of the efforts engaged in by this Organization and by the Director-General. As we know full well, the Director-General has always adopted a wise approach. This makes it easier for the Organization's activities to be implemented.

We hope that the financial situation of the Organization will improve soon, and we believe that a lot of countries are now doing their best to settle their arrears and pay their current assessments. However, we are bound to express concern because certain programmes and projects for development depend on this single form of resources.

There are many programmes and projects because of the cost of transferring the technical know-how, all of which have an impact on development processes. The cost of technology and know-how transfers increase from one year to another and that is why a lot of countries are having pressing difficulties in this context.

We believe we should all take into account the efforts engaged in by developing countries in order to improve their citizens' living standards and we should, as a team, make an effort to guarantee the full implementation of this Organization's projects, especially those within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme. This is because a lot of countries have based their efforts on the Technical Cooperation Programme and Projects. This will surely facilitate the implementation of our activities.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you to the distinguished delegate of Libya for his intervention. At this point, before calling on the UK Delegation, I would ask if there are any other Members of the Council who wish to make an intervention?

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I apologize for taking the floor again but I thought it might be helpful if I said, very briefly, something to clarify the point about prioritizing to which you referred in my intervention. Let me say I strongly agree with you that it is obviously for the membership and the governing bodies of FAO to set the priorities.

What I was actually addressing was the second part of the equation, in other words, the implementation by the Secretariat of those priorities. This obviously does not exclude judgements which have to be taken by the top management of FAO on the whole question of prioritizing its resources. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much for your intervention. We can agree with you.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** I said at the outset, Mr Chairman, when I introduced this item, that my task had been made easier because others had spoken before me. At this stage, Mr Chairman, my task is more difficult because you have had your debate and you have finished your debate without giving me the lunch-time to prepare my answer. Despite that, I will try to do my best.

My objective is really on several fronts. Firstly, I have to respond to the very thoughtful debate we have had for which, on behalf of the Director-General and in the name of the Secretariat, I start by expressing our gratitude. Secondly, I would like to respond to some of the questions which had been raised which call for precise answers, and let me say it is not my intention to avoid answering any question which has been raised. If, in the hurry of the moment, I have overlooked anything, then I am sure the distinguished delegate concerned would be kind enough to remind me either here or later on. Thirdly, Mr Chairman, I need to give the Secretariat's response to some of the issues which have been raised and some of the sentiments which had been expressed in the debate.

I think I can only be thankful to the Council, Mr Chairman, that every member who has spoken has expressed appreciation for the approach taken by the Director-General, for the circumspect manner in which he has sought to ensure the implementation of the approved Programme of Work, and by his prudent management of the resources made available to the Organization. I think the debates showed very clearly that this paper was written during the early summer in order to have it ready for the Programme and Finance Committee's meeting at their September Session, and we tried in this paper to give you all the considerations which had been in our minds from the beginning of 1992. What were the problems as we saw them? What weight did we attach to them? How did we try to reconcile our response to these problems in a coherent form? It is no surprise, as all of you have recognized, that we started off the year fairly gloomily, or fairly soberly.

This led to the Director-General taking a very cautious approach and then, as developments have proved more promising, so has our perspective, and so has our assessment for the rest of this biennium.

Mr Chairman, I need to reply now to two specific comments and questions in order to rectify any aspect which may be necessary. First of all, the distinguished representative of the USA corrected me in that arrears payments from the USA did not only amount to US\$22.6 million, but were also covered by a payment of US\$13.7 million in 1991. I am always happy to say, Mr Chairman, the distinguished representative is quite correct. For my part though, I would explain that as the document deals with this biennium I did not refer to the payment made last year but dealt only with payments made during this year. There is no disagreement, however, on the substance.

Then, there was a specific question from the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom about the table given in Appendix 1 of the document. This is the full page table which shows the approved Programme of Work and the net base budgetary appropriation as well as the 1992 allotment. The question asked was, on what basis was the amount for the TCP unchanged between the approved Programme of Work, US\$77 409 000, and the net base budgetary appropriation of the same amount, whereas he said in all other instances there was a difference in the figures. The explanation is very straightforward.

For the first column, the approved Programme of Work, we have taken exactly the approved Programme of Work breakdown as it appears in Resolution 4/91 of FAO's Conference. There you see the TCP with this amount of US\$77 409 000. However, the difference between the Approved Programme of Work and the net base budgetary appropriation, the difference of US\$31.3 million, represents in effect the non-provision of the foreseen cost increases on staff, which led to the net base budgetary appropriation of 645.6.

If I may explain this, Mr Chairman, in every chapter, that is to say Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Chapter 5, where there is a staff component in the budgetary provision, you see a lower amount between the two columns but when you take Chapter 4, the TCP, and when you take Chapter 6, Common Services - that chapter, as I recall, is only for the non-staff provision - and Chapter 7, contingencies, the figures remain unchanged.

Mr Chairman, let me try to address now the substance of the debate. Priority is really the theme of this document and the theme of the debate which has taken place. I have tried to listen very attentively because I think that everything which has been said in the debate helps me to respond to it. Let me take the question of what is given priority and what is not given priority, or what is given less priority in the report which has been submitted to you. The Technical Cooperation Programme: the distinguished representative of the United States said that cuts could have been made to the TCP. Fine - I respect the position of the United States of America as the position of the United States of America. On the other hand, Mr Chairman, I also have to listen and the Director-General does listen to the position of other Member Nations who have said that they attach the highest importance to the TCP, who regretted that the provision in this Programme of Work and Budget did not respond to the directives of the previous Conference in ensuring a higher share of the TCP in the approved programme.

It was not 14 percent as the Conference resolution asked the Director-General to ensure. The share of the TCP in the current budget is just under 12 percent. In this debate I have heard every delegate who has spoken on behalf of his country or his government with regard to the importance of the TCP and who expressed pleasure at the fact that the provision for the TCP has not been cut.

Similarly, I heard very clearly the position of the United States when the distinguished representative said - and I think I got the words exactly - that the cuts have had an imperceptible impact. Fine - I respect their position, Mr Chairman. On the other hand, I have also heard the expressions of the position of all other distinguished delegates who have taken the floor to express their concern, to express their regret, and who have not only pointed out how these reductions and postponements affect their own country, but if I may take the position of the distinguished delegate of Australia, as an example, he has expressed regret for these reductions as they affect other countries; countries in the Southwest Pacific and even more for Africa.

Mr Chairman, some questions have been asked about whether there has been equity in this process. Is there ever complete equity in the world? We tried, as the Director-General says in paragraph 24, to calculate the provisional allotments in such a way as to spread the overall impact as equitably as possible. We did try but I think it is clear to all of you, as you have commented, that there cannot be total equity. In fact, as the distinguished



representative of Sweden and others pointed out, the reductions affecting chapter 2, the Technical and Economic Programmes, are higher.

There is a very straightforward reason for this. When we deal with the infrastructure of an organization, including this one, when we deal with basic services dealing with plant and maintenance, the basic statutory requirements of the Organization, cuts are not possible, certainly within an approved Programme of Work.

You may consider cuts in the context of future programmes of work - and that is where you would exercise your sovereignty in priority setting - but within an approved programme of work, when it comes to the services for Conference and Council affairs, when it comes to the services provided by the Administration and Finance Department, when it comes to the structure that we already have in place for the regional offices and the FAO country offices, the possibilities for cuts are very limited, if available at all.

That is why - and I turn also to the point of view expressed by the distinguished representative of the Philippines - when programme adjustments and cuts have to be made, it is really in the areas of the technical and economic programmes that we have to turn.

There was a conscious decision and a conscious choice by the Director-General not to affect the TCP, a choice and a decision which has been supported by the over-whelming majority of Members who have addressed this issue.

The area really where most of the reductions had to be sought was in the Technical and Economic Programmes.

A question was raised about the links between programme resources and vacant posts. I think that was a question raised by the distinguished representative of Canada.

Following on from what I have said and as shown in the document, we really had to review the staffing positions in all the organizational limits. In terms of the programme impact, managers had to make proposals about which positions they could afford to fill, at what time of the year, and which positions would have to remain vacant, given the allotments that they had received.

There are two points which I would like to draw to the Council's attention. The distinguished representative of Canada referred to a percentage figure of 17.8 for vacancies. I do not have the document from which he has given this reference but it strikes me that perhaps this refers not only to Regular Programme costs but also to Support Cost posts and posts under "any other funding", including project funding, because for regular programmes I have the situation as of 26 October. The Regular Programme establishment, which is the one approved in the Programme of Work, gives a total of some 3 157 posts, of which 2 004 are general service and 1 153 are professional directors and above.

The vacancies for the general service posts are only three percent and the vacancies for the professional posts are thirteen percent, of which ten percent were deliberately planned in our financial planning process. They were very deliberate. They were not fortuitous but vacancies which were designed for posts to remain vacant during the year in order to live within the allotments.

In this connection I should point out that the Director-General has always been concerned about the level of vacancies which we have had over some years. He instructed me a few weeks ago to inform my colleagues that they should take steps to plan for the filling of posts at an accrued level. In view of the improvement in the situation, which we have reported and seen, it is our firm intention to improve upon the filling of posts and that, you will see, will have a direct impact on the level of programme implementation during the next year.

In the discussion on priorities, there is one aspect which perhaps was inferred and not explicitly stated. May I make a brief comment on that?

The Council has recognized very well that the Secretariat has a role in priority-setting in terms of proposals that the Director-General submits for each Programme of Work and Budget but it is the Member Nations of this Organization who exercise their sovereignty in decisions on priorities, decisions which come through a process at all levels of technical bodies, sectoral bodies, programme and finance committees, councils and finally the Conference. This progress report I think has brought out one aspect which we sometimes do not talk about enough; that is, how priorities are affected in the course of implementation.

In this report we have placed emphasis on the issue of financial resources affecting our implementation of programmes. There is another aspect which I would like to flag for your attention; that is the need for the Secretariat to respond to new demands as they are made during the biennium. The follow-up to UNCED, which the Council discussed last week, the preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition, the way we respond to the field programme demands and the increasing problem of support costs, which you will discuss later, are all aspects which give examples of how, in the process of implementation, there are subtle but quite identifiable actions which, in fact, deal with priorities. The Secretariat, of course, is faithful to the directives of the conference but this is a matter of judgment on which we constantly have to defer to you, to our Governing Bodies.

One specific comment was made only by one delegation but, in order to obviate any misunderstanding, may I refer to the statement of the distinguished representative of the Philippines? I think he was referring to paragraph 37 of the document where, in the Progress Report, the Director-General had said that, with the allotments made, they did not appear to result in the need for any between-chapter transfers for which prior approval of the Finance Committee would be required. However, that was, as the document says, on the basis of the initial allotments and before payment of the arrears had been received and before additional allotments had been issued.

In the light of that action, as we reported to the Programme and Finance Committees, I will draw your attention to paragraphs 1.14 of the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees of September where the report says: "As indicated in the document, the Committees noted that approval would be requested from the Finance Committee in due course for the inter-chapter transfers which would be required".

I just wanted to emphasize and clarify the point. The Finance Committee does expect requests for inter-chapter budget transfers to be made to it in accordance with the financial regulations and further to the allotments which have been made by the Director-General.

Let me now deal with the questions which were raised about support costs. Although I will, of course, respect your ruling that the discussion on the subject will take place under Item 16 and I will not try to anticipate my presentation of your discussion at that time, there were some questions raised in relation to this document which I think do merit a reply.

I draw attention to the statement in the document, paragraph 21, which was referred to by the distinguished representatives of Sweden and the United Kingdom about the increasing subsidy from the Regular Programme to the Field Programme. Let me give you the basis for the information we provided in this document. To do that, I must share with you the situation that we faced at the beginning of the year and which we face now.

The support costs cover UNDP support costs, Trust Fund support costs and the direct operating expenses of the TCP. The World Food Programme support costs which we receive I exclude from this discussion because that is a subject on its own. We provide services to the World Food Programme and are reimbursed according to the agreed arrangements and the administrative budget of WFP. At the beginning of 1992 - this year - we had just under 700 support costs posts. These posts would have involved an expenditure of just under US\$50 million on posts and expenditure of just under US\$5 million on the non-staff expenditure which is covered under support costs. The non-staff expenditure refers to the external audit fee, computer services, the services of the Financial Management Division, the Personnel Division and so on.

If we had taken no action, we would have faced an expenditure of US\$55 million during this year. Our best estimate of income at that time was just under US\$45 million, so we really had a gap of some US\$10 million with which we had to deal.

Please bear in mind that in the case of a Programme of Work, the Conference, you, approve the resources and we count on them. In the case of support costs income, we are constantly working, firstly, with estimates of the projects that FAO is being asked to execute and, secondly, with the scale of delivery and the tempo of delivery. Both these factors have to be constantly borne in mind. That is why support cost incomes have to be kept under review by us on a continuing basis.

We could not, obviously, face this gap of US\$10 million. The Director-General had to take action. What does this action consist of? It was decided that vacant posts which were funded under support costs - and there were some 80 of them which were vacant at that point in time - should not be filled. There were some on which the process of recruitment was under way, on which an offer had already been made to a candidate. Of course, we could not retract that and those posts had to be filled. Then there were certain posts where the incumbents had qualifications which made it suitable to move that staff member to a vacant Regular Programme post. This still enabled us to reduce the posts under support costs but it meant that there was no personnel problem created because the individuals concerned had contracts, those contracts were honoured, and they were moved to other work or posts under the Regular Programme. But there were some posts where the post was occupied, the post was funded under support costs, and there was insufficiency of expected income. This is what was meant when we said that we expected a likely increase in the Regular Programme subsidy of US\$8 million for the biennium. Let me say very clearly that this is if only all those posts were to be transferred to the Regular Programme in the next biennium. In fact, in the next Programme of Work

and Budget you will see very clearly an indication of what these posts are and whether the Conference agrees to assuming the funding of these posts under the Regular Programme. For now, let me just give you some examples. The Director of the Administrative Services Division, the D-2 post, has in the past for many years been funded under support-cost income. When support-cost income was rising, when it was at a sufficient level, it spared its inclusion under the Regular Programme of Work. But a very basic policy issue and a practical management issue come up. If this post cannot be funded under support costs, we obviously need that function to be carried out under the Regular Programme. We are not asking for any decision now, but I am giving this as an example of a post where we shall have to include it under the next Programme of Work and you and all your subsidiary bodies will then have to examine the wisdom and the necessity of doing so.

I have given the most striking example, of course, a D-2 Director post, but there are other posts, such as Assistant Director to the ADG of the Administration and Finance Department, a remote sensing officer, an information systems officer, but these are examples, and these are the reasons why the matter has been referred to.

This brings me to an issue which has come up repeatedly in the debate, and that is the next Programme of Work and Budget. For my part, let me say that, although I have listened very attentively to what has been said by the distinguished representatives of Japan and the USA when they indicated their position regarding the next budget level, I would point out three things. Firstly, I am indebted to the distinguished representative of Trinidad - and I am sorry I cannot thank him personally at the moment - because he has drawn your attention to the fact that Conference stated very clearly, and stressed, that the solution adopted by the Conference in 1991 should be considered an exceptional one and not setting a precedent for future Programmes of Work and Budget and that Member Nations reserved the right to consider on their merits future Programme of Work and Budget proposals as may be submitted by the Director-General in accordance with Article XVIII of the Constitution.

I beg to say that this issue is really not one which needs to be considered now. It is certainly not an issue under the progress report which has been submitted to you, and it is certainly not a matter on which the Director-General would authorize me to either prethink or prejudge what his intentions may be. As a number of representatives have rightly pointed out, the Director-General's proposals for the next biennium will be submitted in the outline Programme of Work and Budget which will be considered by the Programme and Finance Committees at their joint meeting early next year. It will be very much an issue to be taken up at that time by the two Committees.

The second point I would make is that, although I have listened very attentively to what was said by the distinguished representative of the USA, I must say that I shall need to reflect a great deal on some of the implications of the suggestions made. For instance, I heard that this Member Nation wishes to see no growth in discretionary expenditures. If I may understand that to mean no programme growth, that is one understanding, and I can at least comprehend what is being said. Another aspect was that this Member Nation would like to see the maximum absorption of non-discretionary expenditures. Does that mean that there would not be provision for warranted and justified cost increases? If we are to absorb cost increases, this is a very basic issue, not just for the Director-General to consider but for all Member Nations to consider. These are very important points. I should like to

do justice to them by not giving a reaction which is not needed at this stage, anyway, but by pointing out that we shall give the utmost attention to what has been said, and what will be said, on this matter.

Mr Chairman, I have taken a lot of your time. You have been very kind in not rushing me. I hope I have responded to the sense of the debate, to the substance of the debate, and to the questions raised. I remain, of course, at your full disposal if there is any aspect on which the Council would wish me to respond further.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Deputy Director-General, Mr Shah, for his intervention and substantial answers to all the questions.

Nous arrivons au terme de l'examen de ce rapport intérimaire du Directeur général sur l'exécution du budget programme. Le débat a été particulièrement intéressant et particulièrement riche.

Je me permettrai de faire une réflexion à propos de ce qu'a dit le Japon en ce qui concerne les recrutements. La vie des organisations et la vie de toutes les administrations nécessitent de prévoir l'avenir et un rajeunissement de cadres. Le blocage des recrutements pendant de longues périodes est très préjudiciable à toutes les organisations, car l'apport de sang neuf dans un organisme, l'apport de jeunes avec de nouvelles ouvertures, de nouvelles techniques, me paraît indispensable, si l'on veut garder à notre organisation tout le dynamisme et toutes les capacités de réponse voulues. On a beaucoup parlé de centre d'excellence. Pour être un centre d'excellence, la connaissance et l'approche de nouvelles techniques dans un monde qui évolue très vite est absolument indispensable.

En ce qui concerne la fixation du niveau du prochain budget, nous n'avons pas à en discuter maintenant puisque la procédure, qui est une procédure très longue, a été fixée par la Résolution 5/91 de la Conférence qui prévoit qu'au début de la deuxième année de l'exercice biennal, le Comité du programme et le Comité financier tiennent une réunion conjointe afin d'examiner le schéma de Programme de travail et budget soumis par le Directeur général pour l'exercice suivant et de faire des recommandations sur le niveau du budget et les principales activités du programme.

C'est en janvier 1993 que cet examen aura lieu; il est donc tout à fait prématuré d'en discuter maintenant. Il a été clairement affirmé et réaffirmé que les mesures exceptionnelles prises dans le cadre du Budget programme 1992-93 étaient des mesures tout à fait exceptionnelles et ne constituaient pas un précédent pour de futurs programmes de travail et budget.

Nous pouvons constater que, compte tenu des disponibilités de trésorerie, le Directeur général a dû procéder à un certain nombre de réductions et réallocations de crédits qui ont incontestablement eu un impact sur le programme. La grande majorité des membres ont regretté ces réductions mais il faut constater que, la situation de trésorerie s'étant améliorée, il sera peut-être possible, dans le courant de l'année 1993, par un effort exceptionnel des services de la FAO, de compenser les réductions qui ont eu lieu en 1992 de façon à pouvoir réaliser la totalité du Programme de travail, sur la base d'un montant de 676 millions de dollars. C'est, à mon avis, le point essentiel qui se dégage de ce débat particulièrement riche et intéressant. Cela demandera un effort considérable de la part de tout le

personnel de la FAO. Nous aurons l'occasion, demain après-midi, d'aborder le problème du personnel - je crois qu'il faut l'aborder dans son ensemble - y compris ce qui a retenu plus spécifiquement l'attention du représentant du Japon. A mon sens, l'exécution du programme de travail est fonction de l'enthousiasme et du dynamisme d'un Secrétariat renforcé.

On a parlé des problèmes de dépenses d'appui. Nous l'aborderons également demain après-midi. C'est un problème important. Dans le passé, un certain nombre de membres du personnel indispensables à la vie de l'Organisation ont été pris en charge par les dépenses d'appui.

Il en est de même de certains aspects du Programme de travail et de certaines activités de la FAO qui sont essentielles à la vie de l'Organisation. Je n'en citerai pas d'exemples pour le moment; nous aurons l'occasion d'y revenir.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions au sujet de ce point, je vais déclarer clos son examen et je vais faire une proposition concernant le déroulement de nos travaux.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

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

10. World Food Programme

10. Programme alimentaire mondial

10. Programa Mundial de Alimentos

10.2 Election of Seven Members of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

10.2 Election de sept membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM

10.2 Elección de siete miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous propose de procéder à l'élection de sept membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM. Comme vous le savez, cette élection nécessite un quorum des deux tiers et nous avons ce quorum: 37 membres sont actuellement en séance. Comme il ne s'agit pas d'une matière litigieuse, nous pourrions procéder à l'élection de ces membres.

Conformément au paragraphe 9.a) de l'article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les élections ont lieu au scrutin secret, sauf que s'il n'y a pas plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir le Président peut proposer au Conseil de procéder aux nominations par consentement général manifeste.

Nous avons donc le quorum des deux tiers. Le Secrétaire général était en possession, vendredi à 10 heures, de sept candidatures pour sept sièges à pourvoir. Je vous donne la liste de ces candidatures:

Pour la liste A, qui concerne l'Afrique, il y a deux postes à pourvoir et deux candidatures: celle du Burkina Faso et celle du Sénégal. Le Sénégal était déjà membre du Comité et représente sa candidature. Le Burkina Faso présente la sienne pour remplacer la Guinée.

Pour la liste B-II, qui concerne les pays d'Asie et du Pacifique, il y a deux postes à pourvoir. Le Bangladesh et le Sri Lanka, qui étaient déjà membres du Comité, représentent leur candidature.

Pour la liste D, qui concerne les pays de l'OCDE et divers pays dits économiquement développés, il y a trois postes à pourvoir et nous avons la candidature de trois pays sortants: l'Australie, le Canada et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Je propose dès lors au Conseil de procéder à la nomination de ces sept pays par consentement général manifeste. Je crois qu'il ne reste qu'à applaudir les membres élus.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le Burkina Faso et le Sénégal, pour la liste A, le Bangladesh et le Sri Lanka, pour la liste B-II, l'Australie, le Canada et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, pour la liste D, sont élus membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM.

**J.R. TURKSON (Ghana):** I do not want to delay the proceedings, Mr Chairman, but I wish to correct something you just said: it is Burkina Faso which is seeking reelection and not Senegal.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que vous avez raison. Je m'en excuse mais cela ne change rien au résultat du vote. Je vous remercie de votre observation; il en sera bien sûr tenu compte dans le procès-verbal.

Il ne me reste qu'à vous remercier de votre assiduité et de votre participation à la onzième séance plénière du Conseil.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La session est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.







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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Cent deuxième session

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TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING  
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
12ª SESION PLENARIA  
(16 November 1992)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45

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

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas

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

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

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

IV. ASUNTOS EL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

15. Audited Accounts

15. Comptes vérifiés

15. Cuentas comprobadas

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare ouverte la douzième séance de notre Conseil.

Le point 15 comprend trois documents différents qui seront soumis à la Conférence. Les deux premiers documents nécessitent la présentation, par le Conseil, d'un projet de résolution à la Conférence pour l'adoption du rapport et des états financiers du Programme ordinaire 1990-91 et du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement 1990-91.

Le document concernant le Programme alimentaire mondial est soumis à votre examen mais nous n'allons pas nous prononcer sur ce document pour la simple raison qu'il devra être présenté au CPA qui aura à l'examiner lors de l'une de ses prochaines sessions.

15.1. Regular Programme 1990-91

15.1. Programme ordinaire 1990-91

15.1. Programa Ordinario 1990-91

Nous prenons le point 15.1: Programme ordinaire 1990-91: Programme ordinaire 1990-91. Il s'agit du document C 93/5 "Rapport et état financier du Programme ordinaire de la FAO pour l'exercice 1990-91"; il contient toutes les remarques faites par le vérificateur externe et je tiens à cet égard à souligner la qualité de ce document qui présente de nombreuses suggestions particulièrement intéressantes. Je dois avouer que je l'ai relu - je l'avais lu pour le Comité des finances - avec beaucoup d'intérêt, hier.

Je vais demander à M. Mehboob, Sous-Directeur général, de bien vouloir présenter ce document.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** Allow me first, Mr Chairman, to make a clarification on the World Food Programme Accounts. I have been informed that the WFP Accounts, in accordance with the new General Regulations, would go to the CFA first in the Spring Session and then go to the Council in June. So we will be considering the Regular Programme Accounts and the United Nations Development Programme Accounts today.

The Council has before it documents C 93/5 and C 93/6. These are the final Audited Accounts for the biennium 1990-91 for the Regular Programme and the project activities funded by the United Nations Development Programme. I am pleased to report that the opinion of the External Auditor on the Accounts is an unqualified one.

Mr Chairman, you will note a change in the presentation of these statements from those prepared in the past. Previous reports have included an introductory report by the Director-General which provided explanations for some of the information contained in the statements.

In line with modern accounting practice this explanatory information is now contained in a section called "Notes to the financial statement" which follows the statements and schedules.

In accordance with General Rule XXVII.7 (1) the Finance Committee at its 74th session has examined the Audited Accounts on behalf of the Council. It has also recommended that the Council submit to the Conference, for adoption, the Audited Accounts for the Regular Programme and the UNDP. The comments of the Finance Committee are to be found in document CL 102/17 paragraphs 3.37 to 3.42.

Mr Chairman, you will recall that in his introduction to the report of the Finance Committee the Chairman informed you that the Committee had endorsed the recommendations of the External Auditor and had recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Conference. This resolution is to be found in paragraph 3.42 of document CL 102/17. I shall be pleased to respond to any queries which the Council members may have on these Audited Accounts.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je proposerais que nous examinions tout d'abord le document C 93/5, le rapport financier du Programme ordinaire 1990-91.

**Ms Teresa HOBGOOD (United States of America):** As a member of FAO's Finance Committee, the United States had the opportunity to engage in frank and open discussions among the external auditor, other members of the Finance Committee and FAO staff concerning the audited accounts. At this time, we would like to make some additional comments and observations.

With respect to the format of C 93/5, FAO's Audited Accounts for 1990-91, we were particularly pleased to see the new section of the Report entitled, "notes to the financial statements". We hope that this section will be included in future FAO reports, since the notes are a customary feature of many financial statements and assist the reader in understanding the nature and scope of significant financial transactions.

With respect to steps that can be taken to enhance the transparency of the "notes to the financial statements", we support the views of the external auditor that the notes should contain more descriptive information on interest charges, both internal and external, incurred by the Organization. In this respect, we would hope to find descriptive information on FAO's borrowing practices in the 1992-93 financial statements when they become available.

We were pleased also to see the section in the report on actions taken in response to the external auditor's previous recommendations. We note, in particular, the auditor's comments in paragraphs 16 through 28 of C 93/5 on the control of manpower. While we appreciate that FAO has taken some positive steps to redress the shortcomings identified by the external auditor, it has not made sufficient progress in addressing adequately all of the deficiencies. For example, we note the external auditor's remarks in paragraph 22 that an improved methodology and a more systematic approach to staffing reviews could

offer scope for further savings by the Organization. We wholeheartedly endorse this comment.

We note also the auditor's remarks in paragraph 15 that he has deferred his review of progress on the procurement of field equipment and services, pending the Secretariat's response. This situation is regrettable. We would like to know when the Secretariat's response will be forthcoming.

Turning to the auditor's comprehensive and very helpful report on management matters, detailed from paragraphs 43 through 136, we read with keen interest his discussion regarding the serious difficulties which FAO encountered implementing its FINSYS/PERSYS computer system. We would hope that the Organization is well on its way to resolving these problems to enable Member States to place even greater reliance on the information contained in the financial statements. Focus should not continue to be on the mistakes of the past, but rather on the actions necessary to develop FINSYS/PERSYS into the system that was originally envisaged. In this regard, the United States delegation endorses the recommendations made by the external auditor in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the document.

We also endorse the external auditor's remarks in paragraph 9 that "if permanent solutions are not found in the 1992-93 biennium, it is possible that another expensive and resource-intensive emergency exercise will be required". In our view, such a dire warning warrants very careful attention to the FINSYS/PERSYS system in the coming months. In this respect, we would strongly urge the external auditor to monitor the situation very carefully and to perhaps provide the Finance Committee with a progress report on the implementation of the auditor's recommendations regarding FINSYS/PERSYS at its next session. Given the US\$30 million spent, thus far, on the system, it is imperative that the successful implementation of FINSYS/PERSYS be realized and that future needs be addressed adequately to enable Member States to fully reap the rewards of this enormous investment.

Turning to financial matters, there are several specific questions we would like to raise at this time.

First, we note that the Director-General's comments were excluded from the financial statements for the 1992-93 biennium. We had no difficulties with this change but we believe it would have been helpful if the cash-accrual table contained in previous financial statements remained.

Second, we note that FAO received 99 percent of the contributions owed for the 1990-91 biennium. This suggests that the Organization was in relatively good financial shape at the end of 1991, although we were disappointed that external borrowing continued through 1992. FAO's difficulties with FINSYS/PERSYS and its pervasive problems in controlling receivables and payables, particularly those related to field accounts, suggest that financial difficulties may have been attributable somewhat to FAO's inability to determine its level of cash flow position. In this respect, may I draw the Council's attention to paragraph 92 of the External Auditor's report. My delegation trusts that the situation has been rectified.

Third, that in schedule 3.5 the authorized level of the special reserve account is shown as 5 percent of the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget of the US\$676.9 million. We would appreciate clarification on the figure of

US\$676.9 million since the authorized level of the Special Reserve Account is 5 percent of the effective working budget or US\$645.6 million.

Fourth, my delegation has taken note of the External Auditor's comments with respect to the status of the development of common accounting standards. While UN General Assembly document A/47/443 suggests that some progress has been made on this issue, we are somewhat disappointed at the pace of developments.

Moreover, we are not certain that the results achieved will enhance the transparency of financial data and enable Member States to make meaningful comparisons of financial data among the UN, the specialized agencies, including FAO and IAEA.

Finally, we would like to express appreciation to the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom and his staff and to FAO for their tremendous efforts in putting this voluminous report and the financial statements together. Given the unqualified opinion of the external auditor on FAO's financial statements, we can support a recommendation that the Conference in 1993 approve FAO's audited Accounts for 1990-91.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** In going through the considerable volume of the accounts for the Regular Programme there is something on the subject of Trust Funds and, as is said in paragraph 168, the Trust Funds amounted in 1990-91 to US\$ 388 000 000. When I read paragraph 167 there was an explanation as to what the content of the various projects were and I quote "the project should be consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Organization". At that time I thought that was very nice. I thought the auditor would say something about this, but when I continued to read on, not only on figures, my optimism was not justified because there was nothing about that.

As you know, some countries, such as the Netherlands and Belgium, are sizeable donors to the Trust Funds and we think it would be nice sometimes if the external auditor could go more deeply into that which was defined as the policies, aims and activities of the Organization, and of the projects and programmes undertaken in line with this and whether there are any improvements to be made.

On the other hand, I must say the statement that the reporting was not done, as it had been done before, and apparently as it is going to be in the future, was worked out very well by the external auditor, with this request; that the auditor could possibly give more attention to the content of the present programmes. Apart from the financial situation, we could support the recommendation from this Council on the resolution for adoption by the Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué des Pays-Bas. Il a précédé ce que je comptais dire en soulignant que les Pays-Bas ont été le premier donateur en fonds fiduciaires du Programme ordinaire. Je tenais tout particulièrement à souligner que le rythme des paiements en 1990 et 1991 dépasse pour chaque année 30 millions de dollars. On atteint plus de 64 millions de dollars, ce qui place les Pays-Bas en toute première position comme donateur en fonds fiduciaires. Il a été utile de le souligner et nous en reparlerons parce que c'est un point important. La lecture et l'interprétation du tableau 3.3:

Fonds fiduciaires du Programme ordinaire, sont particulièrement intéressantes et instructives.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I wish to be very brief. With your permission, I will give my delegation's comments on the Auditor's Report of FAO's field programme and the UNDP report, which we have read.

In the opinion of my delegation the Auditor has done a commendable job in giving a detailed and thorough report in both the cases under consideration. A perusal of page 57 of document C 93/5 and page 26 of document C 93/6 shows that the Auditor has issued a clear and unqualified certificate in both cases for which they deserve to be congratulated. The Finance Committee has also endorsed these reports for approval.

My delegation agrees with the recommendations of the Finance Committee. We also concur with the observations of the Finance Committee in paragraphs 3.39 and 3.40 of document CL 102/17 regarding the timely and corrective action taken by the FAO Management to resolve the problems relating to the introduction of the new computerized system of financial and personnel management, as well as the acceptance of recommendations of the External Auditor in his report.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je propose maintenant de suspendre pendant quelques minutes l'examen de ce point de notre ordre du jour pour saluer la présence du Ministre de l'agriculture de la Fédération de Russie, Son Excellence Viktor Khlystun qui, accompagné de sa délégation, vient de prendre place dans la salle. Le Ministre prendra la parole en russe. Il sera traduit dans toutes les langues officielles de l'Organisation. Un de ses collaborateurs lira la suite de son discours en anglais, pour éviter de gros problèmes de traduction. Mais le début du discours sera prononcé en langue russe et traduit par un de ses collaborateurs en anglais et retraduit dans toutes les langues de notre Organisation.

**STATEMENT BY Mr VIKTOR N. KHLYSTUN, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**DECLARATION DE M. VIKTOR N. KHLYSTUN, MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

**EXPOSICION DEL Sr. VIKTOR N. KHLYSTUN, MINISTRO DE AGRICULTURA. FEDERACION DE RUSIA**

**Viktor N. KHLYSTUN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian):** I am very glad to present to your distinguished Council information on the agrarian reform issues in Russia.

I have a great hope that after a time there will be a possibility for Russia to take its place here in FAO.

Permit me to present you with a brief review of some issues on agrarian reform in Russia.

The current agricultural policy in Russia places high priority on sustainable stabilization of the economic environment in agriculture and the implementation of agrarian reform.

At the end of January 1991/January 1992 the necessary legal framework had been created and a radically adjusted general economic policy was initiated.

The core elements of the policy were the fiscal stabilization programme and the structural reform in a number of sectors, including agriculture. The general price liberalization, started on January 2, did not cover a limiting range of the most socially significant commodities.

The rigid fiscal policy implied contraction of the budget allocations for all kinds of subsidies and military expenses.

The taxation and credit systems were reorganized, the Central Bank of Russia, permitted to lend to commercial banks, instituted strict controls on credit expansion. However, interest rates for agricultural loans remained subsidized.

Foreign trade has experienced significant liberalization through certain steps in unification of exchange rates and elimination of excessive licensing.

The agrarian reform acceleration was backed by a set of laws and by-laws. The obligatory agricultural state procurement system was altered and the amounts of the state purchases were drastically reduced (for state and collective farms - by 25-45 percent of the average output of the last five years).

These and other actions created a new incentive framework for food sector development in Russia, but also induced negative trends in this development, the most dangerous among them being severe agricultural input and output price distortions. The consumption pattern has shifted towards bread and potatoes at the expense of meat, dairy products, vegetables and fruit.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture has elaborated and adopted the policy to ensure financial profitability of efficient agricultural producers and to encourage appropriate structural reforms in the food sector.

In 1992, the output of grains, sugar beets and oilseeds exceeded the previous year's level, while the production of vegetables, fruit and berries remained the same. The rates of decline in the food processing industry have slowed down.

However, in general we failed to overcome the negative trends in the agro-food sector performance. The agricultural output reached only 88 percent and the food processing industry output 80 percent of the previous year's level. Less winter crops for the harvest of 1993 have been planted; less fertilizers have been applied.

The crisis situation remains severe in livestock production: during nine-months of 1992 the state procurements have declined in cattle and poultry by 29 percent, milk and eggs by 24 percent and wool by 53 percent. Following a poor harvest, feed supplies will remain tight. The productivity and numbers of livestock and poultry have decreased.

The volume of investments, construction and instalment activities has dropped significantly. The deficit of financial resources is still huge.

Reduced demand, higher production costs entailed reduction of the profitability of farms and their insolvency.

The major targets of the current agrarian reform are the following:

- structural adjustments in the food sector, consistent with a market environment;
- transition from the central planning to reliance on market principles in the state regulation of agriculture.

The underlying concept of the current agrarian reform does not follow the common Soviet approach, dealing with "sustainable improvement" of food sector production relations but implies their radical transformation and affects the basic economic, social, political and even ethnic interests of various layers of society.

The agrarian reform focuses on the establishment of institutional arrangements to enhance creation of economically independent, flexible, sensitive to market signals producers.

According to the legislation currently in force, there are two ways to set up a private farm. The rural inhabitants have got the right to withdraw from a collective or state farm with certain land and asset shares. The former city dwellers and newcomers can create their private farms by land acquisition from the formed regional land reserves.

The underlying principle of land redistribution contains the possibility for every rural inhabitant to get a land plot within the average district share free of charge and to lease extra land (again within certain limitations) with the right to buy it out later.

The policy-makers realize the shortcomings of this approach, since it prevents the formation of viable farms of economical size and leads to the need for structural adjustments in future. However, the rejection of such principles will cause severe social upheavals which would make the reform implementation impossible.

The Government is conducting the policy of private farming movement support which covers direct input supply, preferential credit terms, taxation and education.

However the provision of material and financial resources to farmers lags behind the rise in their numbers, and that is why the expansion of the private farm sector should not be enforced.

The state and collective farms still predominate in agriculture, but in their present form they do not fit the market environment. On December 29, 1991 the Russian Government issued a decree on the state and collective farms reorganization with the options of joint-stock companies, cooperatives or associations of private farms.

In the course of reorganization the main part of lands and assets of state and collective farms was given freely into ownership.



Since the beginning of 1992 7 500 state and collective farms, of a total number of 27 000, had reregistered. Half of them preferred a form of joint-stock company. Six hundred were dissolved in favour of creation of private farms. Often the reorganization is conducted nominally, but strict refusal of budget funding, state supply and procurement systems, price liberalization and high interest rates will make the enterprises realize the necessity of real transformation.

The important element of the new agrarian structure is the so-called individual subsidiary holding. In contrast to private farms, these holdings are usually run by workers of state or collective farms in their free time. This sector contribution amounts to one-quarter of the total output of some crops in Russia. In the course of the reform all former restrictions on individual holdings' development were abolished. Today this sector plays an important buffer role in the rural economy. On the one hand this sector allows more gradual transition from collective to private farming; on the other hand this sector, by expanding the area under some crops, compensates for the drop in production in the collective sector.

The downstream sector of the food chain in Russia is poorly developed. All previous efforts to improve storage, transportation, processing and packaging of agricultural products through state investments ended in failure. Today attempts are being made to address the challenge with privatization and demonopolization in these industries.

The state privatization program of 1992 considers the transfer of processing and servicing enterprises into private ownership a top priority task. Taking into account the monopoly position of the majority of such enterprises, the government tends to provide favourable terms for agricultural producers to buy them out.

The lack of facilities in the downstream sector cannot be eliminated simply by privatization of existing enterprises. The sector needs sound additional funding, and the government is planning to encourage private investments in this area.

The next urgent issue in agro-business development in Russia is the severe shortage of adequate market infrastructures: wholesale, banking, insurance, transport and communications systems. In this direction, perhaps, the reform has achieved the poorest progress, although in recent years commodity exchanges were established in Russia, but they operate mostly like auctions, and only a modest part of agricultural output is sold through them. Due to the lack of a well-operating marketing system, the producers, regardless of the general decline in production, are facing difficulties in marketing of agricultural products.

To attract investment to the agricultural sector it is vital to introduce collateral loans, which is impossible without elimination of the moratorium on land sale/purchase and development of a farming insurance system.

The agrarian reform management is conducted by the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture, the Russian Federation Land Resources and Land Management Committee, and their local departments. The Federal Centre for Land and Agro-Industrial Reform, the Council of Agrarian Union of Russia, the Russian Council of collective farms and public organizations of rural commodity producers are also involved.

The world community can provide, and has already been providing, sound assistance for agrarian reform implementation in Russia. The crucial aspects of foreign economic involvement should be the following: attraction of foreign credits to finance the imports of vital inputs, including "know-how" and licences for manufacturing of farm machinery, equipment, implements, plant and animal protection means; reorientation of a part of foreign food credits towards financing of production for import substitution in Russia; and introduction of the most favourable foreign trade terms for agro-business enterprises.

The valuable element of the world community contribution to agrarian reform development is an advisory assistance at all levels, assigning of advisers to governmental structures responsible for agricultural support, expertise in elaborating laws and by-laws, consultancy of private agro-business firms, training of farmers, managers and extension agents and promotion in cooperative movement development.

The extension of interactions with the world organizations, and especially with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, matches the interests of further agrarian reform advancement. It is a well-known fact that even in 1945 the Soviet Union was directly involved in the establishment of FAO. Now the governmental circles in Russian are seriously considering the possibility of joining FAO. The Ministry of Agriculture actively supports this idea and is making initial preparations. In the opinion of the Ministry of Agriculture, Russia's membership of FAO will be the real approval of the course towards unification of international cooperation, focusing of the world community efforts on upgrading of agro-business effectiveness and elimination on this basis of hunger and malnutrition in the world.

Membership of FAO will encourage sound agrarian reform development in Russia, since it provides access to information about achievements of world research and practices, innovations in the food sector and the world plant and animal genetic banks.

The broad experience accumulated by FAO in such areas as agrarian and land reform implementation and rural development, marketing, cooperative development promotion, upgrading of research and extension, methodology of price formation, GIS development, remote sensing of natural resources, environmental actions and rational land and water use will be of great value to Russia.

Membership of FAO will facilitate participation of the Russian food sector in the international labour division, based on comparative advantage, and will enhance agricultural international cooperation.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, Viktor Khlystun, for his very important speech. As you know, the former USSR were involved at the formation of FAO in 1945. We have had a declaration by the Russian Federation about the possibility of entering our Organization. They are now considering the possibility of joining FAO. We hope they will join us in a very near future.

Thank you for your presentation, Minister. We wish you great success in your very difficult task. We hope that the Russian Federation will join FAO as soon as possible.

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

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

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

15. Audited Accounts (continued)

15. Comptes vérifiés (suite)

15. Cuentas comprobadas (continuación)

15.1 Regular Programme 1990-91 (continued)

15.1 Programme ordinaire 1990-91 (suite)

15.1 Programa Ordinario 1990-91 (continuación)

**Shahid RASHID (Pakistan):** The delegation of Pakistan has read the Report of the External Auditor with great interest. It is a very detailed review of the financial position and accounting procedures of FAO. We are pleased to note that the External Auditor has acknowledged that the financial statements have been presented fairly in the light of meticulous checks of accounting entries. We also welcome and appreciate the fact that the External Auditor has placed unqualified audit opinions on all the Organization's financial statements for 1990-91. The Secretariat is also to be commended for its satisfactory performance in this regard.

The External Auditor has, however, dwelt at great length on the development and implementation of a new computerized financial and personnel system. This system ran into serious difficulties soon after being launched. Most of these difficulties were apparently technical problems, though some were directly related to management decisions, while others emanated from financial constraints. A system which is a complex and sophisticated one and which caters for the elaborate requirements of FAO can seldom be introduced without great difficulties. The difficulties in this case appear to have been quite numerous in the past, but it is gratifying for us to note that the major problems have now been overcome.

Correct management and organizational decisions have been taken to effect what has been termed as a dramatic improvement by the External Auditor.

While we are satisfied with the positive measures that have been taken successfully to rescue this important system, we would urge the Secretariat to take the necessary steps recommended by the External Auditor, especially at paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Report, so as to ensure that this project is able to meet its objectives and proves to be a worthwhile investment which yields substantial benefits.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** La délégation libanaise félicite le Directeur général de son rapport très clair et approfondi. L'opinion du Commissaire aux comptes sur la situation financière du PNUD et du budget ordinaire pour l'exercice biennal 1990-91 ne fait l'objet d'aucune restriction. Cette opinion est favorable. Nous voyons dans les commentaires faits du paragraphe 34 au paragraphe 44 que le FINSYS est un système de base de données complexe assez raffiné, qui remplace le système antérieur qui datait d'il y a 20 ans. Le rapport signale que la dernière phase de mise en oeuvre de ce système a présenté des difficultés au moment de l'application.

Ma délégation constate que l'on rencontre assez fréquemment de telles difficultés dans les grands systèmes similaires que l'on veut mettre en place dans le monde. Ces problèmes de FINSYS sont étroitement liés aux difficultés financières de l'Organisation. D'ailleurs, les paragraphes 95 à 97 du rapport du vérificateur externe évoquent la question. Mais ne nous appesantissons pas sur le passé, envisageons plutôt l'avenir, d'autant que la FAO - nous le savons - fait tout son possible pour faire face à cette situation. Nous nous réjouissons à cet égard de constater que l'Organisation a pris, en temps voulu, des mesures correctives pour affronter ces difficultés - cela est évoqué dans les paragraphes 102 à 105 du rapport du vérificateur externe. D'ailleurs, le paragraphe 39 résume la situation: "La vérification longue et méticuleuse des registres comptables par l'Organisation, et les mesures prises ensuite, ont permis de résoudre nombre des problèmes critiques qui se sont posés au moment de la mise en oeuvre du nouveau système de comptabilité informatisé".

A cet égard, nous félicitons l'Organisation d'avoir accompli un effort conséquent.

Ma délégation est prête à faire siennes les recommandations du vérificateur externe telles qu'elles figurent au paragraphe 37 de ce rapport sur les comptes du budget ordinaire et surtout pour ce qui concerne l'adéquation des effectifs d'informations qualifiés et le recrutement des comptables informaticiens dans la Division des finances. Ces recommandations ont d'ailleurs été approuvées par le Comité financier lors de la réunion de juillet.

**W.A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** Allow me first of all to congratulate the External Auditor for the clarity and transparency of his Report concerning the audited accounts for the Regular Programme and the UNDP accounts for the period 1990-91. We should like to congratulate FAO on the excellent cooperation that the Organization provided for the External Auditor which facilitated his task, providing him with careful documentation, showing also the situation of the Organization up to date.

I should like to refer to paragraph 34 of document C 93/5, the Financial Report and Statements and the comments it makes on the new system, the FINSYS/PERSYS system, which was introduced into FAO as a new computerized personnel system, the purpose of which was, of course, to improve personnel management procedures and financial procedures, and the measures to be taken to cope with problems which had arisen initially. This has been addressed by the External Auditor. We note that there have been these problems. We note that measures have been taken to correct the teething troubles and that FAO has applied these measures successfully. This is, of course, a lesson for the future; we must learn from it.

We have full trust in the competence of FAO staff in this field, now that the teething troubles have been overcome. We would like to say that we approve the Auditor's Report.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** Firstly, I should like to endorse the comments made by the delegation of the United States of America. We fully support their statement.

We are particularly pleased to see that the auditors have given unqualified audit opinions on these accounts.

I cannot help but draw this Council's attention to the Auditor's remarks about the FINSYS/PERSYS system. Doubtless, many members of this Council will recall my many remarks expressing concern about the implementation of this system. My concerns go back as far as 1989. At each and every Council Session I was assured that there was nothing to worry about. This is not borne out by the comments of the auditors regarding the implementation of this system.

We should like to bring to the attention of this Council the comments of the auditors, in particular those in paragraph 72 of document C 93/6. These comments serve to highlight the tremendous efforts on the part of the Secretariat which ensured that the work of the External Auditor was not adversely affected by the problems encountered by the recent implementation of the new financial system.

Whilst my delegation is heartened by the response of FAO to this crisis, we note the Auditor's concerns expressed in document C 93/5, that preparations may not have been fully completed when implementation of these systems began.

We were also particularly concerned by the comments in paragraph 85 of document 93/5, and if I may quote, the auditors say, "it is also a matter of great concern that the prime records of cash and bank balances were not reconciled at a time when the Organization was entering into borrowing arrangements". This is particularly disturbing.

The implications of the finding for the Auditor are clear, and we are confident that the Auditor's recommendations in paragraphs 37 and 38 have been noted and will be acted upon by the Secretariat.

Paragraph 119 of this same document makes clear that the failure to identify and correct the existing problems could provoke a costly repetition of last year's events. I am sure this is something that we all wish to avoid.

The External Auditor has made a number of further recommendations in each of the documents before us. In this regard, we note a few areas to which my delegation would like to draw the council's attention. The first of these is the signing of the UNDP Executing Agency Agreement. This must be considered as a matter of the highest priority, as the Auditor makes clear in document C 93/6, paragraphs 95-98.

We fully appreciate that the new support cost successor arrangements may well have complicated this whole issue, but we hope that the Secretariat will be able to bring negotiations with the UNDP to a close in the very near future.

Paragraph 8 of C 93/5 makes the point that a strong, independent and fully-staffed internal audit team is essential for FAO, and we should like to support that view.

I would also like to draw attention to the accumulated personnel-related contingent liabilities which are estimated at over 350 million dollars, and significantly under-funded.

As I recall, the Auditor did just say that this would be over a long period of time, but my delegation would like to advise that the Secretariat might find it useful to seek the Auditor's further comments on how this under-funding would be dealt with.

We have no specific comments on the audited accounts of the WFP, but we support the recommendations of the External Auditor as contained in the Report.

On a note of presentation, we would welcome the inclusion of additional cash flow information in this Report. I think this would enable us to expand upon the most useful information already provided by the Summary and Common Expenditure Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities for Trust Funds.

Also in document C 93/5 there is a comment that further work is required in the implementation of staff reviews. We note with interest the Auditor's assertion that an improved methodology and a more systematic approach to staff reviews could offer scope for further savings by the Organization. Given the substantial percentage of the Organization's overheads represented by staff costs, we have no doubt that the Secretariat will take the appropriate action on this matter, and we look forward to hearing of the findings of these reviews in the future.

As a final point, we have been made fully aware of the financial problems encountered last year. The Secretariat appears to have painted a very black picture for the coming year. However, it is clear from the table on page 42 of document C 93/5 that at the end of the last financial period FAO's income had exceeded expenditure, and our Organization was able to record a cash surplus. When combined with the present high level of contributions received from Member Nations, this information can only lead us to conclude that the Organization is, at least financially speaking, reasonably healthy. I think it is clear that FAO's finances are now pretty sound and the present predictions of serious problems in the Regular Programme may have to be revised, taking into account this very positive turn of events.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** I should like to thank the members of the Council for their comments on the Audit Report and their valuable suggestions, of which we have taken note. There were a few questions or requests for clarification which I shall try to answer. If I miss any, I shall be pleased to come back to them.

The first point is regarding staffing reviews. As the Audit Report states, FAO has made some progress in this area. One of the comments which the External Auditor is making, of which we have taken note, concerns his suggestion for an improved methodology. The Organization's view has always been that the most effective way of carrying out such staffing reviews, apart from the specific ones we carry out during the biennium - and those are listed by the External Auditor, a major one in process being the one concerning the administrative units and the management support units - is at the time of the preparation of the biennial Programme of Work and Budget. The supervision and the programme managers are the ones best placed to carry out these reviews. These are done every biennium when the Organization is preparing its Programme of Work. That programme is valid for two years, and it comes up for review again at the end of two years.

There were some comments on FINSYS and the need to look at the future. Several delegates made comments about looking at the future needs of the Organization. In fact, that is what we have been focusing on in the last year. Apart from producing the Financial Statements, we were addressing certain areas of the system to sort out the problems wherever we could. But even more important is that a Functional Review of the whole system is in process. This Functional Review, apart from having very comprehensive terms of reference, takes into account paragraph 37 of the External Auditor's Report which contains several of his recommendations of how to go about sorting out the system. So those have been included in the terms of reference of the Functional Review. We hope to have the results of the Review by the end of the year, and then we shall start implementing the recommendations whatever they may be. We hope quickly to get the problems of FINSYS behind us. We are very conscious that we should not get into the same situation as in 1990-91. We shall be paying particular attention to the recommendations of the Functional Review and seeing that they are implemented quickly so that we can get rid of the problems of FINSYS.

There was also a question with regard to procurement and that in response to the Conference's request we were supposed to prepare a response. We shall be preparing a document. In fact, the Conference's request to us was that in future we prepare a document giving the status of the implementation of the External Auditor's Reports. That is what we plan to do, and procurement would be one of the items included in that document.

There was a question on the Special Reserve Account. In fact, it was the Conference Resolution which prescribed the Special Assessment. This was for US\$28 million in two instalments, on the basis of a proposal by the Director-General. However, the authorized level of the Special Reserve Account remains at 5 percent of the total of the effective working budget, and the total effective working budget is the figure of US\$676.9 million.

There was also a comment on the delay with which the Accounting Standards are being implemented. There is an inter-agency working group at the present time dealing with this. The Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations are reviewing and studying the draft Standards, and once their comments are in, the working group will be considering them some time in December. There was also a suggestion to include an additional cash flow statement with the Financial Statements. It is our intention to do so with the Financial Statements of the next biennium.

There was a comment on the healthy financial position of the Organization in that there is an excess of income over expenditure in the 1990-91 biennium. This excess of income arose through the special contribution of the Italian Government of US\$15 million. It was the application of this US\$15 million which made us have this excess of income over expenditure.

I think I have commented on all the questions I had noted, but if I have left any out I shall be happy to come back to them.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il est évident que ce document aborde des questions qui ont déjà, en tout ou en partie, été discutées au cours des travaux de notre Conseil dans sa session actuelle. La question de FINSYS/PERSYS a déjà été longuement examinée; elle le sera encore certainement, en ce qui concerne le FINSYS, dans l'avenir.

L'excellent rapport de l'auditeur externe aborde la question de la fluctuation des taux des changes et du Plan d'incitation. Il examine les opérations de coopération technique et l'état du Projet du Programme de coopération technique. Il examine la situation du compte de réserve spécial. Il est fait état, au paragraphe 145, à propos des emprunts, du fait que le Directeur Général a créé un Comité Consultatif chargé de lui donner des avis et de l'aider à contrôler les opérations d'emprunts. Ce Comité s'est réuni 16 fois entre juillet 1990 et décembre 1991; ceci, pour un montant d'emprunts relativement réduit auquel le Directeur Général a été contraint de souscrire, me paraît dénoter la prudence et la circonspection avec lesquelles le Directeur Général a pris sa décision dans le domaine des emprunts.

Je voudrais également souligner, en ce qui concerne les fonds fiduciaires du Programme ordinaire qui sont abordés dans le Programme ordinaire, qu'en réalité ces fonds fiduciaires recouvrent des réalités diverses. Ce sont soit les fonds fiduciaires d'un certain nombre de pays développés, soit des fonds fiduciaires pour un programme précis, soit des fonds fiduciaires des pays en développement qui assurent le financement de projets réalisés dans leur pays. Ce tableau 3.3 recouvre des réalités très diverses. J'ai souligné l'importance de la contribution de certains pays. Je me suis permis de citer les Pays-Bas qui est le premier contributeur. Il appartient également de citer l'Italie qui est un contributeur très important, puisque l'Italie intervient pour 53 millions de dollars, venant après les 63 millions de dollars des Pays-Bas, mais incontestablement l'Italie est également un contributeur important.

Ces tableaux 3.3 qui figurent aux pages 82 à 87 serviront d'éclairage pour l'examen du point 16 qui concerne les coûts de soutien des programmes des fonds fiduciaires, non seulement du PNUD, mais également des fonds fiduciaires autres que ceux du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** We have not so much a question to raise with the Secretariat but a suggestion. I do not know whether we should suggest to the Secretariat they should go deeper into the Trust Fund business, as I explained during my intervention, or whether we should suggest it to the External Auditor. I am not completely sure of the procedure in that regard. If it is the Auditor who should be approached, possibly the Secretariat could do that on our behalf, to give him an idea that the Council would like to have a more in-depth study or report as to what extent: the Trust Fund Programme, or more specifically the bilateral Trust Fund Programme, is in line with or consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Organization, and whether improvements are possible.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Enfin je crois qu'on peut toujours améliorer un certain nombre de choses et la question mérite d'être examinée.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** The External Auditor carries out his audit in accordance with the terms of reference which are laid down in the Basic Texts. It is for him to determine the scope of his audit. He decides what he has to follow up and whether the Trust Funds are conforming to the aims and policies of FAO. In particular, he decides what aspects he will concentrate on in carrying out his audit, as well as the financial figures.



We can certainly pass on your concern to him, and the message, but in the last analysis it is the External Auditor who decides on the scope of his audit, because he is independent and carries out his audit the way he thinks best.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que le caractère d'indépendance du contrôleur externe doit être maintenu. En ce qui concerne les fonds fiduciaires, le Comité du Programme peut à l'occasion se pencher sur la question soulevée par les Pays-Bas, parce que le Comité du Programme est parfaitement habilité à examiner la conformité des grands projets financés par fonds fiduciaires avec les objectifs de la FAO. Les projets financés par fonds fiduciaires constituent d'ailleurs le sang de l'Organisation et sans ce sang l'organisme se trouverait profondément débile et malade.

Nous avons examiné de manière très complète le document C 93/5 concernant le Programme ordinaire et le Conseil est d'accord pour transmettre à la Conférence un projet de résolution pour l'adoption des états financiers du Programme ordinaire 1990-91.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda.

15.2 UNDP 1990-91

15.2 PNUD 1990-91

15.2 PNUD 1990-91

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, concerning the financial report and statement of the UN Development Programme for the year 1990-91, my delegation can support all of the recommendations of the external auditor. Permit us to highlight just a few of his observations regarding the UNDP financial report and statements for 1990-91.

With respect to the report of the external auditor - a well-organized and excellent report by the way - we strongly favour his recommendations on management matters found in paragraphs 28 through 48 of document C 93/6 suggesting ways to improve the utilization of fishing vessels available to developing countries for fisheries' research, development and training.

In particular, we agree with the assessment by the auditor that FAO should seek independent valuations of assets when proceeds from their sale are expected to realize over US\$25 000. We also agree that, where practicable, all sales should be negotiated in a hard currency at a pre-determined exchange rate. Unless FAO takes prudent measures to minimize the risks involved when engaging in financial transactions, valuable resources that could be used to sustain FAO's vitally important programmes will be lost. In addition, we agree with the external auditor's recommendation that FAO should explore the potential for commercial sale of its database as an additional source of revenue for the organization.

Turning to the sections of the external auditor's report on financial and other matters, we were disappointed to learn from the auditor that the problem of accounting accurately for unliquidated obligations persists. We believe

that efforts should be intensified to control such expenditures through more precise and timely reporting.

With regard to FAO's inventory system, we are concerned about somewhat lax treatment of fundamental internal control accounting measures, such as valuing and inventorying property, plant and equipment, given the huge investment made in acquisition of these assets. According to paragraph 89 of C 93/6, nonexpendable UNDP equipment in FAO's control was valued at US\$113.4 million. In view of this significant amount, we believe that more concrete measures should be taken to ensure the proper accountability for such equipment.

We note the comments of the external auditor in paragraphs 27(e) and 95 through 98 regarding the status of developments between FAO and UNDP concerning the signing of a standard basic executing agency agreement. My delegation attaches great importance to the successful outcome of negotiations between the parties on this issue and that in a timely manner. In this regard, we would like to know when an agreement will be reached. Finally, Mr Chairman, as a member of the Finance Committee my delegation can support this recommendation that the Conference approve the audited accounts of UNDP for 1990-91.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** I have just one remark: we always wished to have a Field Programme Committee and we never imagined that the External Auditor would give us one. When we read in paragraph 14, Mr Chairman, we see that in addition to the well-established feedback through the Field Programme Committee and the high-level biennial review of Field Programmes, I welcome the Organization's decision. We also welcome the decision on the Field Programme Committee, but I do not know whether it is official or not. We would like to participate in that.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** With regard to the question of the Field Programme Committee, this is an internal secretariat committee. It has been in existence for many years. It is headed by the Assistant Director-General of the Development Department and its membership includes the Directors of the operating divisions and certain other Division Directors in FAO. It is not a committee open to representatives of Member Governments but is an internal mechanism as are several other committees in-house.

We have noted the comments of the distinguished delegate from the United States on the question of unliquidated obligations and the inventory records. In fact, the inventory records give just the book value. Whenever equipment is bought, it is charged straight away to expenditure. As a consequence, the inventory records of the Organization are at historical cost and they are memorandum accounts. But the comments of the External Auditor and of the distinguished representative from the United States are taken note of and we will be addressing them.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Les questions qui ont été soulevées sont importantes. Un certain nombre de pays en développement reçoivent une assistance technique. Est-ce qu'ils sont dans la situation voulue pour rembourser en monnaie convertible? C'est un problème qu'il faut examiner cas par cas parce qu'il est difficile

d'établir des normes, compte tenu de la situation très différente dans laquelle peuvent se trouver les pays.

De même, en ce qui concerne le transfert aux pays des équipements et projets du PNUD, c'est une question qui doit être examinée cas par cas. Quant à la nécessité de tenir un inventaire très précis du matériel, je crois que cela doit pouvoir se réaliser dans les meilleures conditions.

Le représentant des Etats-Unis a soulevé, à juste titre, le problème de l'accord de base entre la FAO et le PNUD. Je crois savoir qu'un texte est actuellement soumis à l'appréciation du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement avec les avis et appréciations de la FAO. Le PNUD est en train d'examiner ce texte et j'espère que nous aurons des nouvelles à ce sujet dans un proche avenir.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 14 - nouveau service d'évaluation fonctionnant sous la direction du Directeur général adjoint, M. Shah - il existe dans la maison un Comité du programme interne composé de différentes sous-directions générales de l'Organisation, mais il existe aussi un Comité du programme qui a été créé par nos Textes fondamentaux et qui fonctionne bien. Certains souhaiteraient un Comité des programmes de terrain. Je crois qu'il faut être très circonspect dans ce domaine et qu'il faut bien étudier la question parce que la plupart des pays donateurs ont des comités triangulaires - qu'il s'agisse des Pays-Bas, de l'Italie ou d'autres pays, peut-être de la Belgique - qui se réunissent annuellement de manière tripartite avec des bénéficiaires qui sont divers. Or je pense que la participation triangulaire du donateur, du bénéficiaire et de la FAO est très importante et qu'il est parfois difficile pour ceux qui ne font pas partie de ce triangle d'y participer de manière efficace. La situation des fonds fiduciaires est très différente selon qu'il s'agit d'un fonds fiduciaire pour le cricket pèlerin ou pour le développement des forêts au Népal ou au Cap-Vert. Les situations sont extrêmement variées et chaque cas mérite d'être étudié. Il faut être saisi au niveau du Comité du Programme de propositions concrètes qui tiennent compte de l'extraordinaire diversité de la situation des fonds fiduciaires.

Après avoir entendu les différentes interventions concernant le document C 93/6 (Rapport et états financiers: Volume II, Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement 1990-91), puis-je considérer que le Conseil est d'accord pour qu'un projet de résolution soit transmis à la Conférence pour l'adoption des états financiers 1990-91 du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement?

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** Let me assure you, Mr Chairman, I am supporting what you have just said, but at the same time, I wish to thank you for your intervention which provided more information than the Secretariat had done. Thank you, Sir.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que les contacts que vous avez avec le Secrétariat vous permettront de recueillir un maximum d'informations sur des points précis et concrets qui sont intéressants mais qui peuvent difficilement être largement développés au Conseil. Je crois que la pêche est un point qui retient particulièrement votre attention et sur lequel vous recevrez certainement

toutes les précisions et tous les éclaircissements voulus de la part du Secrétariat.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Mon intervention n'est pas destinée à retarder nos travaux, loin de là. Je voudrais simplement poser une question au Secrétariat. Si j'ai bien compris son exposé, le représentant des Etats-Unis a parlé de la possibilité de commercialiser les données de la FAO pour augmenter les ressources de l'Organisation. C'est ce que j'ai cru comprendre. Suis-je dans le vrai?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous n'êtes pas tout à fait dans le vrai parce que le représentant des Etats-Unis a spécialement parlé des navires et du matériel du PNUD. Je ne crois pas que le transfert des technologies fasse l'objet d'une vente contre monnaie convertible ou non. Ce n'était certainement pas l'intention du représentant des Etats-Unis. Mais je traduis peut-être mal sa pensée? S'il veut répondre au représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire, je lui donne la parole.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** In response, perhaps I might just read that particular section for the benefit of all concerned. I particularly thank the distinguished representative of Côte d'Ivoire for having raised the question. After that set of remarks concerning the sale of superfluous fishing vessels, the sentence is this: "In addition, we agree with the External Auditor's recommendation that FAO should explore the potential for commercial sale of its database as an additional source of revenue for the Organization."

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je crois que je suis dans le vrai. Je voudrais tout simplement demander au Secrétariat de bien vouloir réagir à cela et de nous dire quelles sont les possibilités qui existent, à l'heure actuelle, pour satisfaire cette requête éventuelle. Je voudrais avoir le point de vue du Secrétariat.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que les données peuvent être transmises aux pays dans le besoin ou dans une situation difficile sur la base d'une information gratuite et à d'autres contre paiement.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Perhaps it would help if I were to set my reply in a context which is broader than merely of fishing operations, fishing vessels and related databases. The policy of this Organization as set by you, the Member Nations, and operated by the Secretariat is that databases are the intellectual property of this Organization. As an intergovernmental organization of course they are the property of our Member Nations.

However, the databases, whether they deal with statistics or with textual data which is of interest or potential interest to parties other than Member Nations, are available for disposal on the basis of sales. I can give several examples which I think may satisfy the distinguished delegates.

Firstly, the principle of the Publications Revolving Fund: Aside from the publications which are distributed to Member Nations as their rightful quotas and the publications which are distributed to national institutes, research institutions, etc., with whom we collaborate, the priced publications are sold. The revenue from those sales goes into the Publications Revolving Fund. The principle of the Publications Revolving Fund is not limited to hard text on paper. The same principle is followed with data which can be commercialized in machine-readable form, whether as compact discs in CD ROM or other means of data transfer and exchange.

Another example I would give is that of data and information which is acquired through projects - projects which are funded by UNDP and also projects which are funded by Trust Funds - where the information acquired through the projects is of interest to non-governmental and particularly to commercial interests. An example of that is the complex of INFOFISH project in Malaysia for the Asian South Pacific countries; one in Panama for Central and Latin America; one in Abidjan for Francophone West Africa. The results of these projects are really commercialized in terms of applications which are sold and information which is sought by commercial interests.

I think the point which is made in the External Auditor's Report that such avenues be further considered is certainly one that the Secretariat accepts, as is the endorsement of this suggestion by the distinguished representative of the United States.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci à M. Shah de sa réponse très complète et merci à ceux qui ont posé la question, ce qui a permis à M. Shah d'apporter les précisions qu'il vient de nous donner.

Puis-je considérer maintenant que le document C 93/6 peut faire l'objet d'un projet de résolution adressé à la Conférence pour qu'elle adopte les états financiers 1990-91? S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques, le projet de résolution sera transmis à la Conférence.

The meeting rose at 16.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 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

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CL 102/PV/13

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102º período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
13ª SESION PLENARIA  
(17 November 1992)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

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

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

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

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)
- 10. World Food Programme
- 10. Programme alimentaire mondial
- 10. Programa Mundial de Alimentos
- 10.1 Seventeenth Annual Report of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes
- 10.1 Dix-septième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM
- 10.1 17° informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare la treizième séance plénière de notre Conseil ouverte.

Comme nous l'avons décidé hier nous allons aborder le point 10 de notre ordre du jour: Programme alimentaire mondial et notamment au point 10.1 le dix-septième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire. Nous avons élu hier sept nouveaux membres à ce Comité.

Je voudrais saluer parmi nous la présence de Madame le Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire, Mme Catherine Bertini, en lui souhaitant la bienvenue et en la remerciant très vivement d'avoir accepté de présenter personnellement le dix-septième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM.

Ce programme est présenté au Conseil économique et social, à notre Conseil - Conseil de la FAO - et au Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

J'ai eu l'occasion de lire l'expose de M. Eliasson au début de la réunion du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, en date du 3 novembre 1992. J'ai parcouru ce document avec beaucoup d'intérêt et je pense que la dernière session du CPA a été particulièrement fructueuse.

**Ms Catherine A. BERTINI (Executive Director, World Food Programme):** Serving the needs of the poor throughout the world is a tremendous challenge and responsibility. Yet every one of us here in FAO, in the UN, in the World Food Programme, every government, every agency, every NGO, and each of us as individuals has made a commitment to do just that.

There are many essential ingredients to our success, but there is one critical ingredient: that is our need to work together in a cooperative, coordinative fashion. We owe those in need nothing less.

The World Food Programme's mission is to support projects using food aid as an economic and social development, particularly in ways to reduce hunger and poverty, in helping the poor to lead more productive lives, in promoting agricultural development, and in generating lasting benefits such as physical infrastructure, skilled training, primary health care, education and environmental protection.



Of course, the World Food Programme also provides food for disaster relief, including necessary logistic support, and helps to ensure coordination of emergency food assistance within the framework of the UN system.

As you know, the World Food Programme is the primary distributor of multilateral food aid, and handles the greatest volume of grant assistance to developing countries of any other UN operational agency. However, food alone cannot eliminate poverty, any more than can health services alone or peace and democracy alone or even money alone. It is imperative, therefore, that the World Food Programme's efforts be closely coordinated with FAO, with other UN agencies, with NGOs, and that we work in concert with the governments of developing countries to help them to reach their own goals of self-reliance for the people in their countries.

It is therefore a privilege for me to address the FAO Council today, the Governing Body of the World Food Programme, on behalf of the World Food Programme and its Governing Body, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

You have before you the Seventeenth Annual Report of the CFA. It records the activities of the Organization for 1991, but much has happened in the world of humanitarian and development assistance in 1992. Therefore I will devote my time to a brief summary of many of the World Food Programme's ongoing activities.

However, there is only one way to begin my presentation to the FAO Council, that is by telling you about the excellent collaborative, constructive relationship that exists between the FAO and the WFP. At all levels - technical, staff support, field and executive levels - we enjoy a positive working environment that helps each of us do the best job possible on behalf of the people we are here to serve, the world's poor. I thank the Director-General for his supporting commitment personally and on behalf of the WFP.

In April, when I took my oath of office in this room, I told the Director-General and the CFA that twenty years ago in April I visited this building and learned for the first time about the important work done by the Food and Agriculture Organization. There are few goals in the world more important than those to which we are all dedicated - to help those in need help themselves to build their communities and improve their options for self-reliance, and to provide food for those who risk hunger and starvation from natural and man-made disasters. I am proud at this first meeting with you of the FAO Council to join you in this effort.

At the recent CFA meeting, I discussed several major challenges faced by the WFP. I should like to review those challenges this morning.

The first is the challenge of providing life-sustaining food. As more and more people become victims of natural or man-made disasters, the World Food Programme is called on to provide fast, efficient provision of food. Unfortunately, the rate of these disasters has grown dramatically last year and this year. That, coupled with the WFP/UN High Commission on Refugees agreement that the WFP would undertake refugee food delivery beginning in 1992 resulted in large increases in the dollar volume of WFP emergency and refugee assistance.

In 1991 the WFP spent over half of its resources in this area, but just in the first six months of 1992 our expenditures are already 25 percent higher than for all of 1991. But we are serving millions of desperate people in this process.

I believe there is another reason why the WFP is called on over and over again by donor and recipient governments to play an active role in emergency relief efforts. If I can brag for a moment: we are good at it.

The CFA Chairman who is here today, Ricardo Velazques of Mexico, and I had the opportunity to see first-hand some of that work when we visited Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa in September. We saw a most efficient technical operation in Johannesburg set up with SADCC and the South African transport system designed to move food through South African ports to inland countries as quickly as possible. We saw the information flow at the UN/SADCC logistic centre in Harare staffed and operated by the World Food Programme. Most importantly, we saw the positive effects of some of this work in a displaced persons camp in Central Mozambique, where we were engulfed by a sea of curious energetic children as we toured the camp and saw the WFP in action. We saw it in rural Zimbabwe, where we visited a children's feeding centre. In fact, we visited two, the one we had planned to visit and the one that we passed and went back to at my request to make an impromptu visit. In both places, the place where they knew we were coming and the place where we surprised the people, we saw the same efficient organization: lists of all eligible children under five, details of their weight and height and other measures, and nutritious meals. The Chairman and I can attest that they were also tasty meals, since we joined them as well. These meals were being distributed to well-nourished children under five - well-nourished, I believe, because of the strength in large part of these meals in this work.

Finally, we saw some of the WFP work in Somalia, where food is now available in large quantities, but where people are still in desperate need because the food has not reached them, where creative methods of transporting the food are often the only available methods for our staff, for donor governments and for other UN agencies and NGO staff to reach people.

Of course, security remains the single most significant obstacle to food delivery, and we still have huge gaps in that delivery. This insecurity and general lawlessness has disrupted all efforts to bring relief assistance to starving people, although some has reached those people in need. I am told by people in the WFP that this may be the most difficult emergency situation in which the Programme has been involved.

After a WFP ship opened the port of Mogadishu to traffic in May, port discharge operations still remain disrupted on almost a daily basis. Efforts to move food within the country are severely affected by looting. Airlifts and air drop operations, which should be considered a means of last resort, are the only way that we are reaching a large number of people in rural Somalia. But even these have been adversely affected in the last few weeks.

In spite of this, in the extremely difficult conditions under which our staff are working, we have managed to deliver 60 000 tonnes of food since May through the ports of Mogadishu and Kismayu, plus another 10 500 tonnes by air, to a total of 18 points throughout Southern and Central Somalia. From there our staff in a large network of NGOs, especially CARE as a major partner, are striving to deliver the food to the most needy.

There is some good news in this situation. As of last Friday, with the new contributions recently from the Japanese Government and the World Bank, the WFP portion of the 100-day plan for Somalia is fully pledged. I thank all of those countries who have contributed generously so far, and I also thank those countries who have creatively supplied the most helpful contributions of aeroplanes and personnel, in particular Germany, Canada and the United States.

World Food Programme has also been a major partner in bringing relief to millions of people in Iraq, in the Sudan, in Ethiopia, in Eritrea, in Kenya, in the countries involved in the Liberia tragedy and in many other countries that have faced recent disasters.

In addition, the World Food Programme has been requested and has agreed to assist in delivering food to victims of the tragic events in the former Yugoslavia. WFP's responsibility involves mobilization, transport and delivery to extended delivery points of 200 000 tonnes of food commodities over the next five months. We are working very closely with UNHCR and this food will all be food from newly contributed commodities, commodities contributed specifically for this reason. The European Community has promised the major portion of this effort.

A second challenge for the World Food Programme is the challenge of building towards self-reliant communities and families. Development programmes remain the foundation of the WFP. These are the only tools that can help us assure our long-term collective success in positively impacting communities and families.

I know, as you know, that the WFP is good at managing development projects. That does not mean that we cannot improve, and one of our challenges within the challenge of building up our development programmes is improving those we have.

In September we held a meeting with many Member Governments to discuss the financial and cash situation of the WFP. One of the initiatives we are launching as a result of that effort is to take stock of WFP's most successful experiences in the use of food aid in support of development.

In this review our basic questions are: under which conditions, through which approaches, and in which sectors is WFP normally most successful, and why? I expect there to be interesting conclusions drawn from this exercise. They should be starting points for future programming.

We intend also to screen the entire WFP development portfolio in order to identify those projects which do not meet expectations either in terms of achievements or in rate of implementation, or those which immobilize resources to the detriment of much more promising projects.

We have, for the sake of independence and objectivity, made this effort to be run by our Evaluation Service who will report to me. The Government of France has offered us financial support to help us in this effort.

We must also ensure the long-term growth of the World Food Development Programme. This is our largest development challenge. This is where the partnership among recipient governments, donor governments and the World Food Programme's staff become crucial. We must, together with recipient governments, make strong projects producing worthwhile results. We must,

together with donor governments, demonstrate that their investments, their contributions, are well placed with the World Food Programme. I will continue to work with donors, to visit their capitals, to understand their individual concerns and priorities, and to try to match WFP's strengths with their individual interests and concerns in an effort to build the strongest multilateral food aid agency possible.

I am most appreciative of the positive, constructive and even enthusiastic response I have received from donors in these discussions. Since I arrived at the World Food Programme, I have visited twelve donor governments, including yesterday in Paris. I expect next month to visit Washington. I hope next year to be able to accept the invitations to visit Japan, Australia and Saudi Arabia.

The current resource reality that we must face for 1993, however, is that we do not have enough resources to meet our current commitments. For the last few years we have made commitments beyond our anticipated level of donations and the shortfall has been manageable for the last two years. However, we face a much more significant shortfall for 1993, possibly as much as 400 000 tons of food, and although we have systematically apportioned the impact of this, based strictly on categories of countries, all countries with the development programmes will be impacted. This will be difficult for many countries to absorb but I have taken the decision to make these changes for 1993 so that we can limit the impact of these in 1993 and we can begin 1994 with commitments based on a level of development that we expect. We will also have a more limited approval of projects in the next two SCPs as we did at the last sub-committee on projects in order to meet our obligations.

One factor that could help immensely is the Pledging Conference and the pledges that are made for 1993 and 1994. At the Pledging Conference earlier this month some countries did come forth with their pledges. Many were not yet in a position to do so. I would like to thank those countries who have pledged and to offer to those who have not yet pledged our willingness to help work with you as you develop your pledge for 1993 and 1994; and our commitment we offer to you as well, that the World Food Programme will work to use all resources as effectively and as efficiently as possible.

Many governments made pledges which sustained their earlier gifts to the World Food Programme. Several governments made pledges for the first time in several years. The Government of the Netherlands increased its pledge earmarked to IEFR, the Government of China increased its pledge by 10 percent and the Government of the United States made a significant increase in its pledge. I thank all the governments I mentioned and those I did not for all of their pledges.

A third challenge that we face is the challenge of assuring efficient and effective implementation of all WFP programmes. When I met with the Committee on Food Aid in May, I stated for the first six months at least I would be concentrating on personnel issues. We are working on many of the staff issues within the agency.

I also took seriously the direction of the CFA from its December 1991 meeting that the Executive Director should look carefully at the entire Organization and make appropriate changes as necessary. I have spent much time on that and I have announced to the CFA changes that I will introduce effective measures from January 1st. My speech to the CFA and the Organization charts are

available to you. We made no changes that will cost any additional money, I should assure you, but in the next budget cycle I would propose appropriate changes in that regard as well.

Today I would just like to briefly list the management principles and priorities that I used to make these decisions. First, WFP's organization, its priorities and its actions which must reflect the reality of our growing emergency refugee work. Second, we must continue to emphasize our development work. Third, we must ensure that the product, the end results sought by WFP, the work to help become self-reliant, and to help provide life-sustaining food, is done efficiently and effectively from start to finish; the policy, the direction, the decision-making and the implementation. Fourth, I believe the most effective organization can be dealt with by senior management stating broad objectives and by the next level of management further defining those goals within their own portfolios. In this way management at all levels encourages staff to be creative towards meeting those objectives.

Fifth, I believe the decision should be made at the lowest possible levels within the organization with two determining factors for what that level is, ensuring efficiency and ensuring accountability. Sixth, it becomes critical in this process to be able to be accountable, to define the duties of each unit to have each manager working with each staff member so that everyone understands his or her responsibilities and expectations. Seventh, that we have clear lines of authority, that our staff, each individual staff, each unit, each country office know what their responsibilities are, what kind of decision they can take and to whom they are responsible. Eighth, that communication lines are clarified, are strengthened, are opened. I believe these policies, these objectives, will help us to build an even stronger World Food Programme. The World Food Programme staff is made up of many dedicated people who have dedicated their lives, and sometimes put their lives on the line, in the interests of helping provide food to the world's poor. I salute all of those people.

I also salute all of you who worked to help make this work possible. Your contributions of money, of food commodities, of advice, of consultation, of other kinds of activities and services help us because we are, in fact, all working together to help those in need throughout the world.

I congratulate those people who were just re-elected or elected as members of the CFA because we will continue to work with you, or begin to work with you, on many of these matters of critical importance because there are many essential ingredients to any success we might have because our overriding necessity is our need to work together in a cooperative and coordinated fashion in an effort to best serve the world's poor.

We are faced with a time of real challenge in the world and real opportunity. The opportunity for all of us to continue to make a difference in the world, to increase the impact of that difference to positively affect the lives of millions of poor families throughout the world. This is a partnership and we are committed to being a part of it together. We are proud of our work together and we work to serve the needs of the poor throughout the developing world. In this work together we owe the poor nothing less than the full commitment we have given. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN:** I express my thanks to the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mrs Bertini, for her very important statement.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** Mr Chairman, I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. We would like to thank Mrs Bertini for her extremely interesting and informative introduction.

The CFA report for 1991 seems to us to be complete and very informative on the activities of the World Food Programme and on the important discussions which have taken place in its governing bodies.

During the period of years CFA Sessions were dominated by discussions on the management of WFP. We are, therefore, particularly pleased to see in 1991 that the discussions were again focused on the managerial aspects of food aid. During the past year we have also seen events both of natural and man-made origin which had catastrophic repercussions on the food situation of many countries, in particular, sub-Saharan Africa.

In that situation the entire international community has been mobilized to provide aid rapidly to the people who were threatened by famine. In this context I would like to remind members that the European Community and its Member States together authorized exceptional aid worth more than 230 million ECU. This aid was additional to the original foreseen under normal annual programmes. Last year the European Community sent more than 1.5 million tonnes of various food products to sub-Saharan Africa.

The WFP has played an essential role in the situations that were often very difficult, as Mrs Bertini has pointed out. We wish to congratulate them on the results obtained.

Despite this extra workload, the WFP took various initiatives during the year with a view to rationalizing the distribution of food aid, and related tasks within the UN system and in order to improve coordination with the various organizations at field level.

Here, I think, the agreement between the UNHCR and WFP on Food Aid for Refugees comes to mind, as does improved coordination with NGOs.

Notwithstanding the practical questions which are inherent in such initiatives, we feel that these are steps in the right direction. We hope that these efforts can serve to increase the cooperation between the different parties involved in the areas of food aid and development. This could lead primarily to an increased efficiency of emergency operations, whilst also an enhanced effectiveness could be obtained in development activities through improved planning and better coordination between the various institutions and donors.

The situation of WFP's cash flow caused much concern and was discussed at length. Temporary measures were proposed, some of which were adopted by the CFA. However, the debate is not closed and an ad hoc working group created to this end, and in which the European Community participated, carries the matter forward.

In this respect we would like to thank the new Executive Director, Mrs Catherine Bertini, for the way in which she is examining this issue with the view to reaching a long-term solution. We have no doubt that with her determination and courage and with the very open attitude that we have already witnessed, she will lead the WFP safely through these problems.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom. You have made your statement in the name of the European Economic Community.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban):** (Langue originale arabe) Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter Mme Bertini de son accession à son poste important au sein du système des Nations Unies. Nous n'avons jamais eu l'occasion de la rencontrer lors de réunions officielles auparavant et nous n'avons jamais eu l'occasion de la féliciter publiquement. C'est pourquoi je le fais maintenant.

Je voudrais également la féliciter de l'excellent rapport qu'elle nous a présenté sur les activités du CPA et sur celles du PAM en général. Il s'agit d'un rapport exhaustif qui nous éclaire beaucoup sur les activités de cette Organisation.

Au cours des années passées, le PAM a entrepris de très nombreuses activités qui ont eu un effet extrêmement positif sur bien des pays en développement ayant besoin de cette aide. Dans le cadre de ces activités, le PAM a joué un double rôle: d'un part, il a fourni une aide alimentaire pour le développement et, d'autre part, il a également permis de résoudre des situations d'urgence. Ces activités ont aidé les pays en développement à surmonter nombre de leurs problèmes mais nous ne pouvons pas dire, malheureusement, que tous ces problèmes aient été résolus. Ces dernières années, de nombreuses crises sont survenues sur notre planète - catastrophes naturelles, sécheresses, inondations, tremblements de terre - qui ont demandé une réaction d'urgence et une aide de la part du PAM. Des difficultés ont été rencontrées dans le domaine de l'expédition et de la livraison de cette aide. Malgré cela, le PAM n'a jamais cessé de déployer ses efforts.

La délégation libanaise apprécie l'excellent travail effectué par le Programme alimentaire mondial et tient à remercier cette organisation pour l'assistance qu'elle a prêtée au Liban. Nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer les efforts déployés par le PAM pour exécuter ses projets; et nous espérons que toutes les institutions pertinentes et tous les donateurs continueront de participer au financement des activités du PAM afin qu'il puisse continuer à fournir son aide. Nous aimerions remercier ces donateurs et ces institutions de leurs contributions.

**Ms Janet F. BITEGEKO (Tanzania):** My delegation is grateful to you, Mr Chairman, for affording us this opportunity to make an intervention on the agenda pertaining to document CL 102/9.

First, my delegation would like to thank the World Food Programme Executive Director for the introduction and the Secretariat for a detailed document.

I would also like to commend the World Food Programme on the achievements recorded in the activities of alleviating hunger and malnutrition in the most needy countries of the world. The scourge of famine as seen in the Horn of

Africa and some parts of east and southern Africa due to drought and civil wars could have been worse. We thank to the World Food Programme, the international donor community and relief activities.

On the aspect of relief activities, Tanzania also would like to commend the World Food Programme and other donor countries who have been supportive of our efforts. Tanzania, though not in a grave food situation, has some regions which are experiencing food shortages and will continue to do so until next harvest in July 1993, subject to favourable weather conditions. This is why Tanzania is requesting some 318 000 tonnes in the form of food aid to offset the imminent food shortages.

As noted from the document under consideration, the role of the World Food Programme in providing relief food aid has expanded. Similarly, unpredictable situations are on the increase, thus diverting World Food Programme resources from their mandated activities. The decision to revisit World Food Programme's mandates and objectives to reflect new developments is welcome.

As to development activities, Tanzania would like to acknowledge the support given by the World Food Programme in the form of food aid for economic and social development. In Tanzania this aid has helped and continues to help the less privileged rural and urban poor in raising their income through implementing small projects. The rural smallholding dairy projects on the mainland and Zanzibar are good examples of how food aid, in the form of skimmed milk powder and butter oil, could assist in developing a smallholding dairy industry. Funds generated from food aid sales have greatly assisted the mainland housing scheme in the sisal estates and smallholding irrigation project in Zanzibar by improving and rehabilitating the irrigation infrastructure. Such smallholding activities are crucial to the economy of my country whose current priority policies include smallholder participation.

My delegation would like to appeal to the international community to make available plastic bowls and plates to Somalia whose good nutritious food is served in very unhygienic facilities.

Finally, my delegation would like to request the donor countries and institutions to provide support to the World Food Programme. The World Food Programme is reaching millions of victims of wars, natural disasters etc., but there are still millions more who are not reached due to inadequate resources.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** My delegation would like to thank Mrs Bertini for her competent introduction to this item. We would also like to note that this has been a tremendous and exceptional year for emergencies. Where in the past five crises might be considered a tough year, in 1992 there have been at least 15 emergencies.

The World Food Programme has met the challenges with admirable determination, creativity and competence. I would also like to note that the United States has made exceptional efforts to help mitigate these emergencies with contributions totalling US\$1.8 billion to sub-Saharan Africa in 1992.

The report before us details the pivotal role played by the World Food

Programme in the growing number of complex emergencies where drought and economic hardships, combined with civil strikes, make delivering relief a precarious and risky business.



In most of these crisis situations the World Food Programme is now expected to be the centre for food mobilization, food resources, deliveries and monitoring emergency food shipments and organizing the logistics of delivery. Being on the front line has put a tremendous pressure on WFP's resources and response capacity.

In view of these strains, the emphasis placed in the CFA report on accountability and careful monitoring and economy of focus is particularly valuable. We also strongly support the effort to link more closely WFP's development programmes and disaster mitigation, the increased cooperation with other UN and NGO organizations, and the prudent use of new methods such as monetization to fit food aid to the needs of existing markets and the peculiar demands of chaotic emergencies.

We would commend the Executive Director on the reorganization in which WFP has engaged, the energy and openness with which these changes are being implemented and the impact these initiatives will have on even better performance in future.

Finally, we wish to note the marked increase in effective coordination between FAO and WFP. The Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP deserve our thanks for bringing about greatly enhanced communications.

**Adel EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful, Mr Chairman, my delegation, after having carefully considered the paragraphs of documents 17 and 9, would like to congratulate the WFP on its efforts in trying to bring aid to those who are subject to civil as well as natural disasters and its efforts in trying to strengthen logistical operations as regards the transport of food aid to those zones where they are needed.

We are also fully satisfied by what is found in paragraph 15 which refers to the contributions and pledges to the WFP for 1991-92 of more than US\$1.9 billion.

We hope that these multilateral resources will reach the target of US\$2.6 billion for this biennium.

We are also very pleased with what is to be found in paragraph 38, which refers to the establishment of a cash account to be known as the Immediate Response Account within the International Emergency Food Reserve. We are also pleased to see that the WFP has tried to cut down on transportation costs, as referred to in paragraphs 50 and 51, which also relate to the use of vessels from developing countries.

We fully support what is to be found in paragraph 60 to 62. From paragraph 62 to 67 reference is made to food purchases, and here my delegation welcomes WFP's efforts to try to buy the food aid within the developing countries. We also support what is to be found in paragraph 67 and hope that this will be increased in the future.

My delegation congratulates WFP on its efforts to try to ensure that food aid efforts go hand in hand with other efforts to ensure the increased effectiveness of food aid. This can certainly be done through additional responsibility of the national components within the programmes.

My delegation has had very close and good relations with WFP since its creation in 1963. Food aid which has been given to my country amounts to more than US\$600 million, and this has certainly had very positive developmental effects on socio-economic development within our country, particularly as regards land use and development.

Finally, we should like to congratulate Mrs Bertini for her excellent introduction to this report. We hope that she will have the greatest success in her activities within the WFP.

**Bo WILEN (Sweden):** We have in front of us the 17th Annual Report of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to the ECOSOC, the FAO Council and the World Food Council. We have also heard Mrs Bertini's extremely interesting updating statement. The Government of Sweden is confident that the discussions in the three fora just mentioned will give valuable inputs to WFP in its continuous work to strengthen the Organization. My delegation is very pleased to have been given this opportunity to be given some points of view on the report, even if I repeat to some extent what other distinguished delegates have already said.

Indeed, 1991 was a crucial year for WFP. The issue of governance of the Programme was resolved. During a two-year period the Governing Body of WFP had worked out draft revised General Regulations. They were approved by the General Assembly of the UN and the FAO Conference by the end of last year.

The Nordic countries took active part in the reform process, with a view to enabling WFP to meet the growing needs of food aid in a changing world. In our view, the revised General Regulations have cleared the path for a sharpening of the definition of WFP's role regarding the operational and humanitarian activities within the UN system, for empowering the Governing Body of WFP to exercise full intergovernmental supervision and direction of the Programme and - not least important - for further augmenting of its accountability, transparency and efficiency.

The changes of the General Regulations came into effect at the beginning of 1992. Thus today we are in a position to draw some preliminary conclusions about the new WFP. It seems to us that the results of the changes are entirely positive.

The donor community has shown confidence in the way WFP has met the new challenges and rising needs of food aid in the world. WFP has further developed its role in UN emergency assistance and has turned out to be an important actor in the implementation of the consolidated appeals for emergency assistance in various regions, particularly in Africa. We note with appreciation WFP's contribution in strengthening the DHA inter-agency coordination and hope that similar good relations will grow up between other agencies concerned and DHA in order to make the UN emergency assistance as effective as possible.

My delegation also welcomes the new working arrangements between WFP and UNHCR concerning food aid to refugees and displaced persons. However, we must keep in mind that the new agreement will imply new claims on WFP and its personnel.

The changes of the General Regulations of the WFP also have consequences for the relations between the Programme and FAO. We have been impressed by how

easily the application of the different new rules came into effect and how smoothly the new working relations have been developed. Here, in parenthesis, I would like to express the Swedish Government's appreciation regarding OSRO's prompt actions to handle the Swedish contributions directed towards the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector of the countries in the Horn of Africa and the drought-stricken countries in southern Africa.

As already said, 1991 was a year of changes for WFP. The first results of those changes were positive, in our view. However, it must be stressed that we are only at the beginning of a long and certainly not easy process to develop and to adapt WFP to the challenges and the needs of food aid for the 1990s. Much work remains to be done by the Governing Body to strengthen WFP. The management must continue with its efforts to prepare and streamline the organization for the demands of the nineties.

In this context my delegation stresses the importance of the ongoing work to consider in depth WFP's cash requirements for the long term.

Finally, based on the experiences from the ongoing special emergency programmes for the Horn of Africa and southern Africa, WFP, both its Governing Body and its management, should spare no effort to further develop and streamline the working methods with the other actors involved in order to further speed up the secure delivery of food aid to those most in need in areas struck by disasters of different kinds.

**ZHENG BO (China) (Original language Chinese):** First of all I should like to thank the Executive Director, Mrs Bertini, for her introduction of document CL 102/9.

The Chinese delegation has carefully studied this document. We have noted that in 1991 WFP accomplished a great deal of work, despite insufficient resources, providing 4.8 million tonnes of food to over 40 million poor people. At the same time we appreciate that the proportion of food aid transported by, and purchased in, developing countries has increased. The Chinese Government is very grateful for the assistance donated by WFP.

We have also noted that in development aid WFP has strengthened cooperation with other UN agencies and bilateral institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations. Diversification and utilization of food aid have been increased and training and assistance to women have been strengthened. The Chinese delegation lends its support to all these WFP efforts. Nevertheless we have taken note that in 1991 wars and natural disasters have increased demand for emergency food aid, increasing relief assistance requirements from one-third to one half of total food aid, a fairly substantial increase. Although such aid is highly necessary, inadequate food aid resources have reduced development aid to its lowest level since 1978.

In our view, relief assistance can only cure the symptoms, not the disease itself. Therefore, while attention is paid to relief assistance, WFP's work should remain focused on development assistance, with the building up of self-reliance capabilities of the poor rural areas as the fundamental goal.

Finally the Chinese delegation supports the 1993-94 pledging target of US\$1.5 billion and hopes that cash contributions will amount to one-third of the

total. The Chinese Government has already made a positive response to this end and has made pledges in line with its capacity.

**Kanji KAWAKAMI (Japan):** Since the inception of the World Food Programme as a joint programme of the United Nations and FAO in 1963, WFP has been developing, hence becoming the principal international organization executing the significant role of providing food aid for the promotion of economic and social development in the developing countries, especially in the low-income food-deficit countries, and the significant role of delivering emergency food aid for victims of natural and man-made disasters. At the present time, as is well known, the scale of WFP's activities is the largest among the UN agencies, second only to that of the World Bank group.

The Government of Japan highly appreciates the activities for development support and emergency food aid which have been executed by WFP, and the Government of Japan hopes that WFP will continue to operate all its activities in a further more efficient and effective way.

We should like to comment on the emergency aid for the airlift of food and other operations for Somalia by the Government of Japan. Yesterday, on 16 November, the Government of Japan decided to extend an additional contribution as emergency aid totalling US\$12.8 million through international organizations for the airlift of food and other operations to aid the afflicted people of Somalia, where very many people are suffering starvation through the deterioration of law and order caused by civil war and drought. Of this US\$12.8 million, US\$12.3 are for the World Food Programme and US\$500 000 are for the United Nations Volunteers.

Japan, in consideration of the plight of afflicted people in Somalia and refugees from that country, and from a humanitarian point of view, has decided to contribute a total of US\$12.8 million to the related international organizations in response to a request from the United Nations 100-Day Action Programme for Accelerated Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia. Japan's additional contribution to WFP will be mainly spent on food transportation by commercial aircraft.

Japan has extended a total of about 10 million dollars for relief of afflicted persons in Somalia and Somali refugees. Including the present aid, the total amount of aid which Japan has extended to them comes to about 23 million dollars.

In a joint operation with WFP, a part of Japan's donation to that Organization will be spent on air lifting food from Tokyo to Kenya for the afflicted people in Somalia.

Press release papers on this aid are ready at the reception desk of the Red Room.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** On behalf of my delegation, I should like to thank Mrs Bertini for her comprehensive overview of the WFP work as well as the challenges before it. We have read the annual report for 1991 with interest and fully endorse it. However, I wish to highlight a few points.

Firstly, 1991 has been another year of creditable performance when the WFP officers and staff have worked with diligence and devotion in getting food aid to the needy in difficult circumstances. They deserve our appreciation and congratulations for so doing.

Secondly, during the year there has been a considerable increase in WFP activities for the mitigation of natural and man-made emergencies. The overall resources of the Programme remaining the same, this has resulted in a substantial reduction in its commitment to the development which stood at about one-third of WFP, aid the lowest since 1978. We believe that, in the short term, emergencies have to be met immediately; yet in the long run, the developing countries have to be assisted in building up their national capacities in order to produce and earn more to enable them to prevent such emergencies in the future or to face them on their own. For this purpose, not only the development assistance has to be increased, but also emergency aid has to be integrated with development plans. We note with great satisfaction that the Executive Director has a similar approach.

Thirdly, my delegation would like to record its appreciation of the quick and efficient logistics and transport services of WFP which have been increasingly used by international communities and the donors. WFP's International Food Aid Information System has provided the donors and recipients with essential data on food aid operations and logistics. My delegation notes with satisfaction that the Executive Director in her recent reorganization of Headquarters, has promoted the officers of this division in recognition of the quality and importance of the task performed by them. We also congratulate these officers.

We are also pleased to note that the WFP is making larger purchases of food grains from developing countries in the operation of triangular exchange transactions, thus promoting increasing demand and remunerative prices to the producers in these countries. WFP has also paid about 45 percent of its transport-related expenditure in developing countries by utilizing their services. We should like to encourage WFP to increase this further as much as possible.

I should like to conclude by recording our pleasure at the successful finalization of the amendment of the General Regulations of the WFP during the year. This has helped in clarifying the confusion which prevailed earlier. The two organizations are now once again operating in harmony and perfect unison with each other, which is what the member states have always wanted them to do.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** La delegación mexicana desea dar, en primer lugar, la bienvenida a la Sra. Bertini, Directora Ejecutiva del PMA, ya que es la primera vez que participa en el Consejo de la FAO, y agradecerle muy cumplidamente la exposición que ha hecho en relación con el informe que el PMA rinde a este órgano de gobierno de la FAO.

El documento presentado habla por sí solo de la importante labor que el PMA desarrolla en el mundo y describe con exactitud las actividades que el PMA ha desarrollado en 1991. Quisiéramos hacer algunas observaciones:

El PMA se enfrenta al reto de una creciente demanda de ayuda alimentaria mundial con recursos cada vez más limitados.

Las necesidades que requieren atención urgente crecen hacia dimensiones alarmantes, a pesar de los esfuerzos de los países en lo individual y de la estructura política y económica internacional para reducir los grados de pobreza y subdesarrollo. Cuando tuve la oportunidad de visitar África en compañía de la Sra. Bertini pude constatar el enorme grado de dificultad con que se presta la ayuda alimentaria y la labor eficaz que realiza el personal de los organismos internacionales, los gobiernos y las organizaciones no gubernamentales. Debemos felicitar a este personal por la tarea que realiza.

El PMA, en sus órganos de gobierno ha adoptado nuevas medidas que le permiten realizar su tarea de acuerdo con el momento histórico que vivimos y tiene ahora una nueva estructura, un nuevo reglamento y ha diseñado políticas que han merecido la aprobación de su Consejo para hacer eficientes sus operaciones.

México tiene el honor de presidir el órgano de gobierno del PMA y ha participado activamente en su reestructuración y su nueva toma de decisiones. Nos enorgullece ser parte de esta tarea.

La delegación mexicana ve con entusiasmo el futuro del PMA y espera que alcance plenamente su objetivo de promesas de contribución para 1993-1994 y desea que el organismo se emplee a fondo y continúe en las tareas de apoyo al desarrollo de los países.

Respaldamos firmemente al PMA y a su Directora Ejecutiva, quien hace casi siete meses tomó las riendas del PMA y ha realizado una encomiable tarea y damos sin reservas nuestro voto aprobatorio al informe presentado.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Mon pays voudrait féliciter Mme Bertini ainsi que la plupart de ses collaborateurs qui sont quotidiennement mobilisés, parfois au risque de leur propre vie, sur le continent africain, que ce soit en Somalie, au Mozambique, au Soudan, en Angola où des conflits fratricides existent encore. Bien entendu, nous suivons de très près l'évolution de la situation dans ces régions et appelons de tous nos vœux la fin de la guerre qui permettrait enfin à ces pays frères de s'orienter résolument vers les actions de développement.

A propos de développement, nous sommes également en faveur d'une recherche de rééquilibrage entre l'aide d'urgence et l'aide en faveur du développement, cette dernière étant bien sûr prioritaire. Mais nous comprenons que le PAM, confronté comme il l'est à des foyers de conflits divers, ne puisse se dérober à l'obligation morale de la communauté internationale de venir en aide aux populations en détresse.

Mon gouvernement souhaite également qu'une meilleure coordination soit obtenue sur le terrain avec toutes les autres organisations, organismes et bonnes volontés, tant au sein du système des Nations Unies qu'à l'extérieur de ce dernier.

Une autre question qui nous paraît essentielle est celle de la sélection prochaine qui sera opérée au niveau des projets en cours d'exécution, entre ceux qui marchent et ceux qui ne marchent pas bien, les critères selon nous devront être particulièrement bien circonscrits pour ne pas trop pénaliser les bénéficiaires. C'est une question fondamentale dont les conséquences pour beaucoup de populations risquent d'être très difficiles, c'est le moins qu'on

puisse dire. Mais nous faisons confiance à tous ceux qui seront amenés à se pencher sur ce dossier, convaincus que les ressources actuelles du PAM ne permettent pas de mener de bout en bout ces projets, qui avaient déjà été approuvés.

C'est d'ailleurs la raison pour laquelle mon gouvernement voudrait lancer un appel à tous les donateurs afin qu'ils contribuent d'avantage aux ressources, notamment celles en espèces, pour le renforcement de l'appui logistique des projets et l'augmentation des articles non alimentaires qui sont indispensables pour améliorer l'efficacité des opérations du PAM dans beaucoup de nos pays.

Nous pensons également, à la lumière de l'amélioration des rapports entre le PAM et la FAO, que l'idée de prédisposition des stocks soit étudiée avec soin et qu'elle puisse se concrétiser. Il vous souviendra d'ailleurs que c'est une des questions abordées par le Directeur général de la FAO dans son allocution d'ouverture aux travaux de nos deux sessions.

Je voudrais maintenant aborder la question de la restructuration du PAM. C'est une excellente idée. La nouvelle responsabilisation des fonctionnaires de rang supérieur, ainsi que le recrutement envisagé d'un nombre plus élevé de personnel féminin compétent, nous paraissent être des décisions à saluer. La responsabilisation du staff va de pair avec celle du Directeur exécutif lui-même qui, comme cela est indiqué en page 17 du document CL 102/9, est désormais pleinement responsable de la gestion des fonds du PAM, à charge pour le Directeur de rendre compte directement au CPA. Souplesse et décentralisation sont indispensables pour gérer un organisme dont l'action est planétaire, comme le PAM, et c'est ce que Madame Bertini a décidé d'appliquer.

S'agissant de Mme Bertini, il est évident aux yeux de tous qu'elle a pris les commandes de l'organisation avec décision, avec dévouement et avec beaucoup d'idées. Nous apprécions particulièrement son souci de faire en sorte que le PAM retrouve un niveau plus élevé de ressources et ses visites auprès des principaux donateurs en sont un témoignage éloquent. Mme Bertini a également trouvé le temps nécessaire pour rendre visite à plusieurs pays africains et elle a pris part avec nous à la dernière Conférence régionale de la FAO à Accra, en juillet. Nous sommes très sensibles à cet intérêt qu'elle manifeste pour le problème de notre continent et lui souhaitons plein succès au cours de son mandat.

Enfin, permettez qu'au nom de mon Gouvernement j'adresse également nos vifs remerciements au PAM pour l'aide accrue consentie aux réfugiés du Libéria dans mon pays, qui sont actuellement de 300 000, venus chez nous en raison d'un conflit qui malheureusement connaît une recrudescence inquiétante pour tous les pays de notre région.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Involuntariamente la Presidencia no vio cuando, desde el principio, solicitamos la palabra, por lo cual, a esta hora del debate no vamos a repetir lo que se ha expresado anteriormente y seremos muy breves en nuestra intervención.

Sr. Presidente, Cuba es miembro del CPA, razón por la cual hemos seguido muy de cerca todo el proceso y desarrollo para la elaboración, análisis y, finalmente, la aprobación de este documento que nos ocupa hoy en esta 13 sesión plenaria.

Su análisis fue a fondo, equilibrado y transparente, no ausente de negociaciones y fundamentalmente de un gran trabajo positivo. Podríamos resumirlo en una gran labor colectiva.

Es necesario reconocer, tanto a la Secretaría del PMA, la Mesa Directiva y la Presidencia del CPA, en fin, a todas y cada una de las delegaciones representadas en el CPA por las arduas sesiones que dedicaron a este documento.

Nuestra delegación, en aras de todos estos esfuerzos y calidad, se muestra favorable a su aprobación.

Todo lo expresado está evaluado también en el informe presentado por la Sra. Bertini, Directora Ejecutiva del PMA, la cual ha ilustrado excelente y ampliamente todo el trabajo eficaz realizado en el PMA, que nuestra delegación reconoce y tan solo deseáramos expresar nuestra esperanza de que el mismo pueda tener una divulgación más amplia, para conocimiento de todos los países. Nuestra delegación espera que los donantes sean receptivos en su solicitud en cuanto a cumplir sus compromisos para proseguir este útil y necesario trabajo para la ayuda al desarrollo.

Aunque breve, no quiere nuestra delegación dejar pasar esta oportunidad sin dejar constancia de lo expresado.

**Russell MULELE (Zambia) :** The Zambian delegation wishes to thank the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for the excellent and lucid presentation of the paper under discussion. My delegation would like to place on record its sincere gratitude to the international community and to the FAO and to WFP in particular for the timely and most necessary support to feed part of the Zambian population in the face of the worst devastating drought in our living memory.

The FAO-supported early warning and crop forecasting system continues to work well in our country. In fact, it was for this reason that we were able much earlier in the season to alert the international institutions and donor community about our plight resulting from drought. Zambia has indeed received generous food aid from WFP and several countries. We wish to thank them all for their generous assistance.

With regard to food aid distribution in my country, we have experienced a close and good working relationship between the donor community, NGOs, FAO, WFP and indeed our own Government. WFP has been playing a vital role in assisting our Government to prepare for the next cropping season for 1992-93 by mobilizing NGOs to take part in the distribution of inputs to farmers most affected by drought.

My delegation wishes to call on the donor community and international organizations to give full support to the WFP in order that it may fulfil its mandate. We are pleased to note, as stated in paragraph 8, that WFP and UNHCR agreed to a new working arrangement designed to give greater benefits to the refugees.

Finally, in endorsing this Annual Report, my delegation would like to hope that WFP will attain its target of pledges.



**Mme Maria de Lourdes MARTINS DUARTE (Cap Vert):** Monsieur le Président, nous aimerions tout d'abord vous remercier de nous avoir accordé la parole à cette heure tardive de notre débat. Nous aimerions aussi manifester notre joie de voir parmi nous le Directeur exécutif du PAM. Mme Bertini, dans d'autres instances au PAM, dans vos rencontres avec le groupe africain nous avons pu constater vos qualités et votre détermination de faire du PAM un organisme efficace qui lutte pour l'autosuffisance des populations les plus démunies. Votre intervention nous a fait le point de grands défis auxquels le PAM fait face, notamment la nécessité de fournir des aliments à un nombre toujours croissant de personnes, répondant à l'urgence avec les quantités requises.

La situation financière, l'orientation vers des programmes de développement et l'assurance d'un fonctionnement efficace de tous les programmes, nous sommes certains que ces nouvelles directives apportées au PAM porteront de bons fruits, d'abord parmi tout le personnel de l'Organisation, et ensuite parmi les autres organismes du système des Nations Unies et tous les pays membres souverains, sans vouloir les classer en donateurs et en bénéficiaires.

Cela dit, nous félicitons le PAM pour le rapport exhaustif qui nous a été soumis.

**Shahid RASHID (Pakistan):** My delegation also would like to thank Ms Catherine Bertini, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, for a very detailed and comprehensive report on the activities and programmes of WFP. We greatly appreciate the efforts and initiatives she has taken to streamline this organization in order to meet the increasing demands being made on WFP.

In recent times, we have witnessed an increasing role for the Programme in helping countries cope with emergencies and disasters. The high level of emergency needs has created tremendous pressures, and we appreciate the manner in which WFP has responded to such crises. Its strengthened logistics capacity and its wealth of experience in handling emergencies is a useful resource and has enabled it to be in the vanguard of provision of humanitarian relief assistance to global level.

The partnership that is evolving between WFP and UNHCR in regard to refugee feeding operations is also a source of particular satisfaction for us. I may mention in this regard the WFP in cooperation with UNHCR has been handling one of the largest refugee operations in Pakistan for a prolonged period. I must add that it has done so admirably, and we are grateful for that.

However, the delegation of Pakistan is concerned that there has been a steady reduction in resources available for development assistance. This is rather unfortunate considering that development activities are and should remain at the heart of WFP's work. A permanent shift of the Programme from development to relief may create major gaps in development activities, and we would hope that attempts will be made to keep the focus on development. In this regard, we would like to appeal to the donors that additional resources should be made available to meet emergency and refugee feeding needs rather than redirecting resources from development projects.

Before concluding, let me also state that changes in WFP General Regulations have reinvigorated this Organization, and we have nothing but praise for the new working arrangement. I would like particularly to applaud the Executive Director and her staff for their efforts.

**Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus):** On behalf of my delegation I wish to thank the Executive Director, Ms Bertini, for her very interesting report, and express our full support to the WFP and its activities to provide food and other assistance to needy countries.

Cyprus has been assisted by the WFP during the very difficult years in its post-independence history. This assistance has been really valuable to our country during that most difficult period, and we are grateful to the World Food Programme.

On this occasion I wish to inform the World Food Programme that the Government of Cyprus has decided to increase its symbolic contribution to the World Food Programme by 50 percent.

Before concluding this brief intervention, I wish to say that it is really gratifying to see the successful evolution of WFP during the last eight months under the guidance of Ms Bertini and, as so desired in the past, the close cooperation with FAO.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Representative of Cyprus for his announcement about increasing the contribution.

**Benson C. MBOGOH (Kenya):** I should like to join delegates around the table who have congratulated the World Food Programme on the excellent efforts it has marshalled to mitigate the needs of millions of victims of unprecedented disasters in the year 1991 while maintaining its efforts in development assistance to these countries.

Through the steady effort of the WFP, the Organization has become the only hope of survival for many people who might otherwise have given up hope.

I take this opportunity to publicly express my Government's appreciation of the Programme and to the Executive Director and her staff for their dedication. They responded so effectively to the call of duty, often I am told at the personal peril of the field staff.

Mr Chairman, without the cooperation of the food aid donors WFP's effectiveness possibly would have been compromised. My delegation, therefore, find it appropriate to extend appreciation to all food aid donors for their contributions and urge that they continue their support for the Programme which has proved beyond doubt to be a cost-effective way of facilitating and channelling food resources.

My delegation fully supports the intensified efforts of the WFP to promote development cooperation with other agencies and donors. We believe this to be an effective way of exploiting fully the potential of the Programme to stimulate fully development in the poorest of the poor developing countries. This development and cooperation must be enhanced, not only with donors of aid, but also recipient governments themselves.

Finally, my delegation endorses the report: and fully supports the Executive Director's efforts which involve new administrative arrangements to revitalize the World Food Programme to cope with the increasing challenges of the 1990s.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** I would like to say that the document we have before us, CFA 33/16, is an excellent piece of work. The report is very comprehensive and transparent and my delegation would like to endorse the report.

I would like to commend the World Food Programme for the excellent work done during 1991. It is indeed very heartening to note that 20 million people, including 114 million refugees and displaced people, received WFP relief food during 1991. My delegation is also pleased to note that WFP handled a record 4.8 million tonnes of food during 1991. My delegation, however, is dismayed to hear that due to resource constraints WFP commitments for development projects is declining. We are of the firm view that development projects is one area which needs special emphasis. In paragraph 10 of document CFA 33/16 it has been stated that at the end of 1991 WFP was assisting 266 ongoing development projects with total resources from WFP valued at US\$3 billion. Over the life of current ongoing development projects an estimated 80 million people will receive food aid. We are, however, dismayed that at US\$448 million, representing 1.44 million tonnes of food, WFP commitments for development projects in 1991 was the lowest in value terms since 1978.

We agree with paragraph 26 of the document and I quote "the ripple effects of WFP's development work can be very widespread. Whole communities can benefit from a general improvement in a region's economic development. For example, new work skills gained as a part of a WFP-assisted training programme result in improved productivity or job opportunities, leading in turn to higher family incomes".

My delegation would, therefore, urge the WFP to take steps so that development projects are not adversely affected due to resource constraints.

My delegation fully supports the establishment of a cash account - the immediate response account (IRA). I am sure IRA will very promptly respond to new emergency situations. I sincerely hope that the annual minimum target US\$30 million for IRA will be fully met.

The Executive Director during her introduction mentioned that she would like to brag about the efficient work done by WFP. My delegation would like to say that this was not bragging. She stated the truth. We are fully satisfied that the WFP has done, and continues to do, an excellent job. It is no wonder that multilateral resources for WFP have increased appreciably during the last two years.

My delegation would join other delegations in complimenting Mrs Bertini, the Executive Director, and her colleagues for the excellent work done. I am sure that under her dynamic leadership the WFP will serve the people more vigorously in the coming years.

Before I conclude I would like to put on record the substantial assistance received from the WFP for the development of agricultural production, rural infrastructure, fisheries projects, forestry projects and school-feeding projects, as well as the vulnerable group development in Bangladesh. I would also like to recall with gratitude that after the devastating cyclone of April 1991, which killed an estimated 138 000 people, the WFP rushed with aid of about 300 000 tons of food. The WFP has also helped, and is still helping, to feed the refugees from across the border.

In this connection I would like to refer to the visit of our Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, to WFP during October. Begum Zia expressed satisfaction about the activities of WFP in Bangladesh. Before I conclude I would again congratulate Mrs Bertini and her colleagues for the excellent work done.

**ALHAJI MAI M. JIR (Observer for Nigeria):** Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor to contribute as an observer to this debate. Let me, on behalf of our delegation, thank Mrs Bertini for the excellent job she is doing with her team and the donor communities for supporting this Programme materially and morally, especially to the assistance given to our African sisters and brothers.

I am sure with her determination and energy the World Food Programme will be vibrant and will address and assist in solving these problems.

We wish to comment on the developmental activities of WFP with the risk of repeating what has already been said. This activity is covered under paragraphs 22-23 of document CL 102/9. To our mind we consider this as real assistance to the needy. It is a long-term solution, as we advocated that this particular activity should be expanded during the FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Ghana earlier in the year. We wish still to add our voice in urging that these activities of the Programme be strengthened and expanded. Of course, this should not be at the expense of emergency relief and we wish to appeal to donor communities to support further the programme of expanding these developmental activities.

Under the heavy weight of debt and world economic problems, developing countries and poorer countries certainly need developmental assistance.

**Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas):** Le agradezco mucho, Sr. Presidente, por concederme el uso de la palabra. La he solicitado al final del debate únicamente por respeto a todos los señores representantes de los países miembros del Consejo; sin embargo, hubiera querido ser el primero en presentar el saludo a la distinguida Directora Ejecutiva del Comité y transmitirle también el saludo de todo el Comité de Finanzas.

Deseo asegurar a la Sra. Bertini el propósito de una colaboración cordial, continua y eficaz y debemos destacar que esta colaboración se ha fortalecido y se ha hecho extremadamente amistosa y útil durante los siete meses en que ella lleva la Dirección del Programa. Hemos tomado nota del informe que nos ha presentado tan exhaustivo y completo. En este informe se pone de relieve la actividad del PMA a fin de aliviar la aguda crisis que hay en el mundo. Todo el mundo habla de Naciones Unidas, pero nadie se da cuenta de que es prácticamente el PMA y sus funcionarios los que están presentes en las zonas más calientes del mundo y se enfrentan a situaciones que son de carácter político y militar como, por ejemplo, en Somalia, donde obstaculizan estas actividades y donde ellos ponen en peligro sus vidas y despliegan esfuerzos realmente admirables.

Hemos tomado nota de lo que nos ha informado la Sra. Bertini sobre el déficit de 400 000 toneladas de alimentos para cumplir con programas ya comprometidos. Esta es una situación que ya conocíamos y que preocupaba al Comité y deseamos expresar el pleno apoyo del Comité por las actividades que está desplegando para tratar de resolver el problema y minimizar el impacto de este déficit

inicial y, al mismo tiempo, queremos manifestar nuestro aprecio para los países que ya han asegurado un apoyo consistente que, verdaderamente, ayudará a resolver el problema o a disminuir su importancia.

**Ms Catherine A. BERTINI (Executive Director, World Food Programme):** I do not feel I have many answers to give. I would like to summarize though that I think the comments you have made to which I should respond come in four basic categories. One is: WFP has done good work, thank you very much. Two: You have done good work but keep on working on these issues. Three: You are going in the right direction but you have a lot more work to do. Four: You have much more work to do.

If I may attempt to summarize those categories, firstly I thank you very much for the kind comments made by so many delegations about the staff of the WFP, the dedication of the staff, the hard work of the staff, both in Rome and in the field. There was particular mention by many of you to the very difficult situations that many people working for WFP face in the field. I thank you for your support and kind words which we will communicate to our staff.

Many of you mention the relationship between FAO and WFP. I will take the opportunity to thank you on behalf of us both for those kind words about our constructive relationship.

Third, many people think the donors indeed deserve substantial thanks for their work, particularly in emergency operations and their contributions to emergency operations. I might also mention that since many people have complimented us on our work, one of the reasons why we have been able to be as effective as we are is because of the establishment of the Immediate Response Account. In this process I thank Sweden for their significant support not only of this concept but for their gift to help it get off the ground.

Under the category of "good work but keep working on these areas", I would start with the UN relations, particularly DHA which was mentioned by a couple of delegates. We do enjoy a good relationship with DHA and will continue to support their efforts and also the work with the UNHCR.

Many of you commented on our new relationship being a good and constructive one. As several of you mentioned, it requires continued additional effort to keep that up.

A second area in this category is our work in the effort of continuing to build efficient operations and organization of the World Food Programme, in Headquarters and certainly the field. Many of you mentioned positively our organizational changes - I appreciate that - and our efforts towards project reviews and emergency efforts.

I want to assure you and those delegates who mentioned it that in our work of reviewing projects we will give merit the top priority and we will do all of our work in a totally open atmosphere, so that we will work very closely with the governments which might be affected in the process. Certainly we will not surprise anyone in this process because we will have a collaborative and fair effort in this regard.

On emergency efforts, India congratulated us on our transport work. We thank you very much. We point to a report that was recently completed by the

European Community which commends the transportation and logistic work of the World Food Programme, as well as to a report done by the Audit which has similar comments. We also agreed with the delegate of Sweden that we must continue to ensure that we are providing very swift response to emergencies and make that response as efficient as possible.

Many delegates mentioned the general regulations, the change in governance affecting the World Food Programme.

The people we help around the world will be the ultimate beneficiaries of these changes on which many of you have worked for many years. I am the manager who is the beneficiary of the changes, since I came in during April under the new umbrella of this Organization and have been able to operate accordingly.

Many of you mentioned the establishment of the IEFER as a constructive new approach. It is and we certainly will continue to strengthen that and to work with donors to support that effort. We do appreciate the fact that the Director-General did talk about this in his discussion earlier.

The delegate of India mentioned triangular transactions. We agree it is very important for us to use as much of our purchasing power as possible to buy commodities and other products in developing countries. In 1992 we expect that our total for these purchases will be over US\$200 million and a very large proportion of this is being spent in developing countries. Of course, it has helped dramatically when donors contribute cash to our programmes.

In the areas of the "right direction but a lot of work to do", I would put the NGO relations that many of you mentioned certainly supported efforts towards closer collaboration with NGOs. We have much more work to do in this area.

Second is the strengthening of the connection between development and emergencies which was mentioned by several delegates here today. We will certainly continue to work on two fronts. One is to ensure that our development programmes have disaster mitigation components or emergency mitigation components. The second is that when we have long-term emergency situations, we look for ways in which we can build in development components to those.

Finally, mention was also made by two delegations of non-food items and the need for additional non-food items.

In the area of "much more work needs to be done", the fourth area I will summarize, one topic in this area is the additional need for development resources. It was mentioned by many people. I think it is one matter of which we are all well aware. We will certainly do our best to answer the comment from the delegate of Bangladesh not to adversely affect the development programmes that we have within the constraints of the resources we have available but we will also work on the long term. I certainly expect to work over my entire five-year term here with the donors in an effort to prove to the donors that WFP is a very efficient operator and a good place in which to invest their limited resources.

As I mentioned, we have had excellent meetings in this regard with donors. I appreciate that very much. I thank Cyprus also for its announcement today that it will increase its contribution by 50 percent.

In the area of "much more work to be done" also exists the issue of managing the cash situation and the long-term cash requirements of the World Food Programme, an issue of course that is on our priority list and is very important for the long-term well-being of the Programme.

Finally, in this area, the delegations of Cuba, China and Côte d'Ivoire mentioned women in WFP. We certainly have an important responsibility to ensure that the needs, the concerns, the options, the futures of women in developing countries are well served by the projects which we manage.

We also have that responsibility here at Headquarters where only 19 percent of our professional staff is women. You can be sure that we will be working in both of those areas as well.

Finally, might I thank a few people. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh graced us with her presence at WFP Headquarters. We consider it a high honour that she should come to WFP Headquarters and thank the World Food Programme for its efforts. It meant a lot to the staff of the World Food Programme who work in all countries throughout the world.

We had the honour this week of hosting the Prime Minister of Chad. We are most honoured by his visit as well.

I have special thanks for the Chairman of CFA, Minister Ricardo Velazquez, whose leadership, guidance and counsel have taken us a long way this year since he became Chairman in May. We appreciate his advice, his counsel, his leadership and certainly his chairmanship in conducting the meetings of the CFA and his continued advice over the remainder of his term until next May.

I thank Mr Ahmed and the gentlemen from WFP who have joined me here today and who have come to offer information and assistance to you.

I thank Mr Hjort because it is he and I who are actually doing much of the work in the process of working on the relationship between the technical bodies and the support staff of WFP and FAO.

I also thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee, not only for his remarks, but for his counsel and his guidance in the past and certainly in the future.

We will all continue to work in the spirit of dialogue, in the spirit of partnership, in an open atmosphere, in order to do the best that we can do together to help the people in need throughout the world. I thank you for your appreciation, for your assurances of support and for your constructive efforts together on behalf of the poor and the hungry in the world.

**C. B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** I just want to make sure that no wrong impression has been given on a certain situation. I think the delegate of Pakistan said that he was afraid that there was a re-direction of funds from the Regular Programme, from the project programme to emergencies. I do not think that is the case. I think it is right to mention this here because it is fairly difficult to get rid of a wrong impression.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous arrivons au terme de l'examen du rapport annuel du comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire. Le Programme alimentaire

mondial connaît actuellement de nombreux défis dans plusieurs régions du monde, en Somalie, au Soudan, en Afrique du Sud, au Mozambique, en Irak, en Afghanistan, dans l'ex-Yougoslavie, dans l'ex-URSS, en Haïti. C'est une tâche extrêmement lourde de concilier à la fois les besoins d'aide d'urgence et d'aide aux réfugiés, et ce en étroite relation avec la FAO, ainsi que cela a été souligné par vous, Madame le Directeur exécutif, à des très nombreuses reprises, notamment pour l'ensemble des projets axés plus spécifiquement sur le développement.

Le Directeur général a souligné dans son discours introductif la nécessité de tenter d'améliorer le fonctionnement de la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence. Il a fait quatre propositions à ce sujet: donner à la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence le caractère d'une convention ayant force obligatoire; prévoir une réserve immédiatement disponible dont le volume varierait entre 500 000 et un million de tonnes; mettre à la disposition de la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence une partie des contributions en espèces au titre de la convention d'aide alimentaire; et, ce qui est particulièrement important sur le plan de la stratégie opérationnelle, prépositionner les stocks.

Le CPA a déjà approuvé la constitution de ce qui a été appelé le compte d'interventions immédiates avec un objectif de 30 millions de dollars.

Incontestablement, en quelques mois, de nombreux efforts ont été accomplis par le Programme alimentaire mondial et je tiens à en remercier non seulement Madame le Directeur Exécutif mais également tout son personnel, notamment Monsieur Ahmed, Assistant Directeur général, pour tout le travail qu'il a effectué. Néanmoins, il reste encore beaucoup de choses à faire.

Je demande maintenant aux membres du Conseil si je peux considérer le dix-septième rapport annuel comme adopté?

Je pense que notre débat a été fort intéressant. J'en profite pour remercier tout le personnel concerné du Programme alimentaire mondial d'avoir participé à la discussion et tout spécialement Madame le Directeur exécutif.

Y a-t-il des remarques concernant l'approbation de ce rapport?

Tel n'étant pas le cas, le rapport est adopté.

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

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

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

16. Support Cost Arrangements for FAO Trust Fund Programmes

16. Arrangements concernant les dépenses d'appui des programmes de la FAO financés par des fonds fiduciaires

16. Arreglos relativos a los gastos de apoyo de los programas de Fondos Fiduciarios de la FAO

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le point 16 traite des arrangements concernant les dépenses d'appui des programmes de la FAO financés par des fonds fiduciaires. Nous nous



référons à une série de documents: le document CL 102/17, le document de base étant le CL 102/18 "Fiduciaires, remboursement des dépenses d'appui" et le document CL 102/18 - Sup.1.

Il s'agit là d'un point particulièrement important dont nous poursuivrons l'examen cet après-midi.

Je voudrais demander maintenant à Monsieur Shah, Assistant Directeur général de présenter ce point.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** At the outset, let me ask for your indulgence and ask you to be kind enough and patient enough to permit me to introduce this item comprehensively in all its aspects, because it is a fairly important issue, and, as distinguished delegates will have seen from the documents we have submitted, it is a fairly complex issue. Therefore, if you will allow me a few minutes more than my normal introduction, I would submit that this might facilitate your debate. On that basis, I shall try to be as brief as possible.

The document submitted to the Council makes it clear, I trust, that the subject is not limited solely to the budgetary or financial aspects of the level of support cost reimbursement relating to the Trust Fund Programme. The subject which is before you deals with the governance, the management and the quality of the Trust Fund Programme. It is for this reason that we hope the Council will accord it the importance it deserves.

Let me start with a few words about the overall context of field operations and FAO's role in field operations. We all start, of course, from the constitutional provision which provides that this Organization shall furnish such technical assistance as governments may request.

From that provision I would go to the judgement of the Conference itself on FAO's field operations. This subject was amply considered by the Conference in the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations and the Conference recognized in its conclusion of this review the catalytic importance of FAO's field operations to all Member Nations, recipients and donors alike. In partnership with member countries, in the judgement of the Conference, the Field Programme gives concrete expression to FAO's aims and objectives and makes its presence and impact felt in developing member countries. Through its technical support, the Regular Programme makes technical and analytical work available to field projects and in turn receives data and feedback from the field to strengthen the technical content of the Regular Programme activities and to update the information base.

On this occasion we are not dealing with the entire Field Programme. The proposal, as you know, deals with the Trust Fund component of the Field Programme. Therefore let me situate the relative importance of the Trust Fund component.

Taking the figures for delivery in the last year for the Field Programme as a whole, the Technical Cooperation Programme, TCP, which is part of the regular budget, accounted for 8 percent, UNDP for 44 percent and Trust Funds for 48 percent. Thus the Trust Fund component is the largest single component of the Field Programme, but, as the Council will recognize from its own experience, the Trust Fund Programme does not constitute a single category.

Within the Trust Fund Programme, we have to distinguish between the unilateral Trust Funds, the government cooperative programmes, and the Trust Funds for special purposes.

What is the regime which affects these Trust Funds? It was in 1981 that the Conference established the current regime effecting the Trust Fund Programme and the support cost reimbursement. This is described in paragraph 15 of the document. I shall therefore not go into detail. Basically there is a servicing cost rate of 13 percent of total direct costs, but there are a number of exceptions which have been described in the document.

The Finance Committee receives each year a report on the results of the cost measurement system which indicates the annual project delivery, the support costs incurred, the reimbursement received and the extent of subsidy from the Regular Programme. The results of this cost measurement system are before you in the report of the Finance Committee from its 74th Session, document CL 102/17.

The most striking factor which I would draw to your attention is that, while support costs as a percentage of delivery are fairly constant, the gap between the support costs and the reimbursement received from Trust Fund donors continues to increase. This gap is increasingly widening. In 1985 the gap amounted to US\$6.7 million. By last year, 1991, it had risen to US\$13.4 million. Even if we adjust the 1985 figure to current costs, using published economic indicators, the gap has increased by close to 50 percent during this period. This is one of the key issues which provides a basis for the proposals which are before you.

Let me turn now to the problem related to the current arrangements. There are two major problems, as we see them. Firstly, there is the changing nature of the services requested from FAO for Trust Fund Programmes. To give you one example, there is a need for technical backstopping services at times in isolation from project implementation services. Another example is that when selected services only are requested. For example, we may only be asked to provide some inputs. If we are only asked to do the training component of a project, which is the most expensive input to deliver - according to the UNDP study it averaged 30.4 percent - compare that cost of 30.4 percent with our earning of only 13 percent. Another example relates to fellowships. If we are only asked to "place" a fellow in a research institution or in a university but are not required to service that fellowship for its duration, we would only receive a fraction of the reimbursement to cover the cost. Then there is also the changing nature of inputs. If we appoint one expert for two years, we incur the cost of recruitment of that expert only once, but, if we are required to appoint four consultants for six months each, then the current 13 percent arrangement will earn the same support cost reimbursement even though we have to incur the cost four times over.

The nature of projects is changing in other ways, too, in the nature of skills desired. The demands of developing countries are increasingly more sophisticated, and rightly so. Ten years ago it would have been normal for FAO to be requested to provide an agronomist, whereas now many, if not most, developing countries have well-qualified agronomists of their own, and, rather than being asked to provide one expert, one agronomist, we are asked to provide field expertise in biotechnology or in plant genetics, expertise which is much more costly to recruit.

Another aspect of the problem is the cause of the widening gap between the cost and the reimbursement, to which I alluded a few minutes ago. Short-term personnel are more costly to deliver. The percentage-based income declines with a reduced cost base which we face when we recruit national personnel. Finally, there are the inflation factors which are applied to support costs, as compared to average international inflation rates.

These are the problems which are not new to distinguished members of the Council. We had drawn them to the attention of the Conference, you will recall, at its last session in 1991. The Conference recognized the need to consider a revised regime for the reimbursement of support costs for the Trust Fund Programme. Many Member Nations at that Conference expressed the view that the proposed study should take account of the UNDP support cost successor arrangements. To the extent possible, these same Member Nations advocated a uniform approach to the application of new support costs arrangements to our Trust Fund Programme. The Conference concluded that our study of the matter should be submitted to you at the present session through the Programme and Finance Committees and that is what we have done.

In the Conference discussion there was one issue on which there was a very striking difference of opinion among Member Nations. That concerns the level of Regular Programme subsidy which Member Nations consider acceptable. There are basically two positions as we review the Conference records and the Conference report. One position is that the cost of support services should be borne as a principle fully by the Trust Fund Programmes concerned. The other position is that some degree of cost-sharing from the Regular Programme is right and proper, as in the case of the UNDP-funded programme, in view of the benefits which occur to the Regular Programme activities.

We cannot hide this difference of opinion and in the document which is before you we have tried to face this issue as squarely as we can. I would venture to suggest that the extremity of either of these positions is not likely to lead to a viable solution in the interest of the Organization as a whole. To argue that the Trust Fund Programme should be financially totally self-supporting, totally independent of the rest of the Organization's resources, is to beg the question as to why there should be an FAO Trust Fund Programme at all.

On the other hand, a high level of subsidy from the regular budget cannot continue to be viable, given the fact that there is a differing degree of involvement and interest among Member Nations in participating in the Trust Fund Programme. The solutions proposed, I hope, will be recognized by the Council as the basis for a possible consensus.

The Director-General has approached the possible new arrangements with the following objectives: any new arrangement should strengthen the Field Programme under Trust Funds by maximizing the response to the needs of recipient countries in term of quality and appropriateness of the services concerned; secondly, maximize the use of the Trust Fund resources in terms of economy, effectiveness and efficiency of the services provided, thus giving the best value for money; thirdly, permit the containment and reduction of the regular budget subsidy to the Field Programme, apportioning costs equitably between donors, recipient governments and FAO; fourthly, provide for reimbursement to be specifically related to the costs of the services defined in the project budget and agreed to by the donors, the recipient governments and FAO; fifthly, permit optional approaches for specific or groups of

projects, thus reflecting the varied nature of Trust Fund Programmes; sixth, provide Trust Fund donors and recipient governments with a clearer presentation of the budgetary provision for support costs, transparency in the development of the rates and a more complete accountability in the costs incurred and the services rendered; finally, accommodate all this in a system and methodology which would be easy to understand and apply.

In order to obtain the best advice to complement the expertise available within the Secretariat, we have used a prominent firm of consultants, David M. Griffith and Associates Ltd. of the USA. I would point out that this is the same consultancy firm which was used by the UNDP and the agencies in the development of the new UNDP arrangements. This has had many advantages, including the fact that the consultant started with a detailed knowledge of FAO's cost structure, and the relationship of any arrangements proposed for the Trust Fund Programme to the successor arrangements that you Member Nations have already accepted for the Field Programme funded under UNDP.

In the interest of a thorough and circumspect debate of all issues and proposals involved, the report of the consultant and the annex dealing with calculations of rates and charges were made available in full to the Programme and Finance Committees when they considered this item in September. The reports are also available to the Council, but, for reasons of economy, they are only in the original language, English.

We have also arranged for a representative of the consultant, Mr Michael Gotthainer, who is the gentleman sitting at my far left, to be present. He was also available to the Programme and Finance Committees. You may put any question you wish to him relating to the consultant's report.

What is now proposed? For the convenience of the Council we have issued in document CL 102/18, addendum 1, a schematic table which shows the summary of the recommendations made by the consultants, David M. Griffith. I draw your attention to it but do not repeat what it contains.

What would these recommendations mean for a Trust Fund project? We went through the details of present and future budgets with the Programme and Finance Committees. To give you one example, take one sample Trust Fund project which may have a duration of three years and a budget of US\$1 768 000: under the current regime this project would be charged at 13 percent support cost rate, which amounts to US\$229 840. The total cost would thus be US\$1 997 840, just under 2 million dollars.

The same project, when subjected to proposed new arrangements, would have a total project budget cost of US\$2 126 468. It would cost US\$128 628 more.

However, this higher cost would be for two very distinct purposes: there would be a higher charge for administrative and operational support of some US\$64 000, and a higher charge for specific, identifiable and enhanced technical backstopping, for which there would be a specific provision made of another US\$64 000.

I emphasize this to show that it is not a matter of a straight dollar comparison between the present rate and the future charge. The proposed charge makes a specific provision for improving the quality of the project through further and identified technical backstopping. Of course, this is to the

benefit of the recipient country and it is in the interest of the Trust Fund donors themselves.

I have given only one example, but we went through a sample of 20 projects to see what the possible new rates would involve. I will not try to flood you with figures. I would only admit that under the present regime those 20 projects would be subjected to either the 13 percent charge or the flexible charge at a lower rate, according to our present arrangements, and under the new regime the charges would be higher. Clearly I will not hide that. The higher charges would depend on the type of project and the component of the services to be provided.

The obvious question that these results beg is whether these proposed rates, the possible new rates, are too low or too high. We also asked the consultant this question and the answer is to be found in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the annex on rates and charges. However, since that document is only available in English, permit me to read just two paragraphs so that they may be heard in all other languages.

The consultant says in these paragraphs:

"4. In general, the rates proposed and the 31.9 percent which we indicated are the total costs incurred by FAO in support of field projects, compare favourably with those used by large public and private sector institutions and NGOs in the USA to obtain reimbursement from the U.S. Federal Government for project support services. Based upon a 1990 summary of the college and university research organizations in the U.S.A. administering the largest amounts of federal grants, the average composite rate for private institutions was 59.26 percent of direct costs and for public institutions 47.49 percent. In large NGOs a typical rate is 31 percent or higher.

5. The rates for FAO, and for all of the specialized United Nations agencies which participated in the study are at or below these averages. Unfortunately, most of the rates used by international organizations are based upon historical negotiation rather than cost, and it is, therefore, difficult to make comparisons between such rates and those computed based upon actual costs. However, a review of multinational and regional organizations which charge the U.S. Government for support costs indicates rates from 25 to 30 percent, and often these rates have been adjusted to reflect cost-sharing formulas."

Allow me to point out very clearly that the rates and charges which have been described in the document before you are those recommended by the consultant. We find them logical and reasonable. However, I want to stress that these rates and charges are not now being proposed by the Director-General in order to seek Council approval. Indeed, the Director-General wishes to have the benefit of your reactions to these suggestions. He wishes to take your reactions into account before making his proposal to the Council next year - again through the Programme and Finance Committees.

The lump sum rates, which are described as suggestions, the component rates and the monthly billing rates for technical services would not be set once and for all. They would be established for each biennium, based upon the adopted FAO budget. The initial rates would be developed upon the budgeted costs for the 1992-93 biennium. Once the methodology has been adopted, the computation of these rates will be totally transparent, the rates will be based upon

specified principles, and the calculation tied to the FAO budget as adopted by the Conference. This can be accomplished along with the UNDP cost measurement study which will be used by FAO and the other agencies to compute the rates for the UNDP arrangements in the successor regime.

In each biennium FAO would also prepare a calculation of the actual support costs reimbursement and expenditures so that donors can be certain that the charge rates reflect the actual costs of the support services provided. Any major changes which are computed would be reflected in the rates and charges for the succeeding biennium.

I am taking pains to point out all these aspects, but would point out that we do have the resources necessary to implement such a system, if it is approved, without significant additional costs, since we are doing similar work and will have to do it for the UNDP regime. But we must clear that the system will require project budgets to be more detailed, more accurate and also more easily adjustable. It will be essential that some of the additional financial resources generated be directed towards strengthening project preparation, particularly at the formulation and appraisal stages. Otherwise, the system will create a burden on donors and the Organization, which we would not advocate; nor would you wish to accept.

We have indicated in the document the preliminary reactions that we had from some of the Trust Fund donor representatives, but we have done so in a very non-committal way. However, may I say that the matter is not just between Trust Fund donors and the Organization, the Secretariat; it is a matter for all Member Nations. Accordingly, the Council will no doubt wish to attach importance to the views of the Programme and Finance Committees, and I understand that the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Dr Bommer, who chaired the discussions at the joint session, will wish to address the Council immediately following my presentation.

Let me now come to the conclusions. We believe that the proposals provide a basis for strengthening the Trust Fund Programme through the strengthening of the design of programmes and projects, as well as the quality of the technical and operational services which are required to be provided by FAO. This is in the common interest of donors and recipients alike. The system which is suggested allows for a clear identification of the nature and level of the services, together with their costs. The suggestions permit recognition of the different levels and types of services which FAO may be called upon to provide, with the possibility of donors and recipients jointly determining exactly what they want.

Some representatives of Member Nations - and we heard this in the Programme and Finance Committee - entertain a fear that any proposal involving higher support cost charges may result in a reduction of the Trust Fund Programme. This is not the intention of the suggestions; or need it be an inevitable outcome. I would point out that, after all, the Trust Fund Programme would be in danger of diminishing if donors and recipients are not satisfied with its quality. It is also in danger of diminishing if it is financially not viable.

I humbly suggest that the only approach to take in such a matter is a positive one - a positive one with serenity and with strength of conviction, and with the expectation that the improvements suggested must result in an improved quality of the Trust Fund Programme, which in itself will lead to an expanded Trust Fund Programme.

We are gratified by the support given by the Programme and Finance Committee to the Director-General's approach and objectives, and to the proposed methodology for the revised arrangements. I venture to hope that in the light of the advice which the Programme and Finance Committees submit to you, the Council may see its way to agreeing on a new regime for the Trust Fund programme so as to enhance its benefits for all Member Nations, whether they be recipients of technical cooperation, donors of Trust Funds, or just Member Nations of this Organization.

The Director-General is keenly interested in your reactions in order to determine further action he may wish to propose to you.

**CHAIRMAN:** We thank Mr Shah for his very interesting and complete introduction to this very important matter. Before giving the floor to the members of the Council, I should like to give the floor now to the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Dr Bommer.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** As Mr Shah has mentioned, the Programme and Finance Committees in a joint session had a very thorough discussion of this important matter, and you, Mr Chairman, participated all the way along, in following the ideas which developed through this debate.

As you have noted, the outcome of our session is reflected in the report in document CL 102/17. We had the benefit not only of the Secretariat but also the consultant with us in this discussion, and we certainly had access to the full report of the consultant and the annexes.

The Committees, who were unanimous in holding the fundamental view that the field programme is an essential component of FAO's role and objectives, expressed concern at the widening gap between support costs and their reimbursement. They welcomed the efforts made by the Director-General to address this issue and commended the work done by the consultant in defining a methodology which identifies, on a clear and rational basis, the full costs incurred in supporting the field programme.

The Committees agreed that the document provides an excellent basis for full discussion by the Council. They endorsed the methodology for the identification of support costs and commended it to the Council. They noted that the proposed methodology permitted adaptation to the varying requirements of individual projects, and was therefore sufficiently flexible to meet the required variety of projects.

There was unanimous agreement that the extent of support costs reimbursement should be increased to cover all indirect incremental costs. This, the Committees felt, was in line with the general principle - to which I think the Conference agreed - that support costs should be borne by the donor to the maximum extent possible.

Concerning fixed indirect costs, in particular the costs incurred by FAO central administrative support services, the Committees took note of the consultant's argument that such costs should continue to be financed from the Regular Programme in the best interests of the Organization. The object is to preserve infrastructure funding from the dangers of making it dependent on volume-related activities. Indeed, the volume of technical assistance may well

be subject to adverse variations through time and, thus, if fixed indirect costs are linked to them, such variations could negatively affect the Organization's ability to continue to provide basic administrative services. Some members however felt that these fixed indirect costs should nevertheless be recovered, and the Committees agreed that this aspect was best left to the Council for further consideration.

The Committees fully agreed that they did not want to see the total level of Trust Fund resources for technical assistance reduced. They appreciated that the new methodology for charging support costs went beyond the issue of the level of support cost reimbursement and was, in fact, aimed at enhancing the quality of Trust Fund governance and operations, and improving cost effectiveness better to respond to the needs of both Trust Fund donors and recipient countries. The Committees expressed the hope that the expected improvements in the quality of project services would indeed result in an increased Trust Fund Programme and commend the proposals for endorsement by the Council.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I thank the Secretariat for an excellent document indicating the background problems relating to the current approach and the issues involved, and the merits of the consultant's proposals. My delegation has found this document very interesting and analytical. I should also like to thank Mr Shah for his very comprehensive and complete presentation, and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for his comments.

Let me begin by emphasizing the important constitutional responsibility of FAO to furnish such technical assistance as governments may request.

In this connection there is a close relationship which exists between the Regular and Field programmes of FAO. Through its technical support, Mr Chairman, the Regular Programme makes its technical and analytical work available to the field projects and, in turn, receives data and feedback from the field to strengthen the technical contents of its own activities and to update this information base. These two-way interactions entail the recognition of FAO not only as a centre of excellence and technical knowledge in the field of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, but also to transmit this knowledge through the field to its projects.

This interaction is achieved in practice by the three types of projects as mentioned by Mr Shah in his introduction and these three sources are the UNDP, the TCP and the Trust Fund Programme; the third one being the most important as it brings in about 48 percent of the entire resources reimbursement in this regard. However, the increasing gap between the support costs and the reimbursement, as indicated in the graph on page 5 of the document, clearly establishes the need to look into the matter.

My delegation welcomes FAO's initiative in appointing a special consultant to conduct a study to analyze the cost support services provided to Trust Fund projects and to recommend a new methodology in this regard.

Coming to the recommendations of the consultant, Mr Chairman, my delegation has the following comments to offer. The revised arrangements suggested provide a flexible combination of rates and charges for different topics and levels of services to be provided. They strengthen the Trust Fund Programme by enhancing the quality of technical and operational services and the system



proposed allows for a clear identification of the nature and level of services together with their costs.

The clear provision and presentation of improved budget formats will result in greater transparency and cost control by donors and recipients alike. The proposed changes in the methodology are such that they would benefit the donors and the recipients alike. It would provide FAO with sufficient financial resources to maintain and even enhance the provision of quality services and improvements in the quality of Trust Fund Programmes. This is also likely to result in an increased and strengthened Trust Fund Programme.

My delegation supports the proposal for enhancing and devising the methodology of calculating the rate of reimbursement for support costs. We also support the consultant's proposal that the costs incurred by FAO's central administration services should continue to be financed by the Regular Programmes as it will avoid making infrastructure funding dependent on volume-related activities. In addition, there are the benefits which will accrue to the Regular Programme from the field activities in the form of data and feedback information which should make some degree of cost sharing acceptable. My delegation is of the view that this will strike a balance between the cost of the services rendered by the Organization so as to ensure that the donors will not shun the Organization but, on the other hand, they will increase the Trust Fund Programme of the Organization.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.





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CL 102/PV/14

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
14<sup>a</sup> SESION PLENARIA  
(17 November 1992)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30

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

Se abre la 14<sup>a</sup> sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas

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

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

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

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

16. Support Cost Arrangements for FAO Trust Fund Programmes (continued)

16. Arrangements concernant les dépenses d'appui des programmes de la FAO financés par des fonds fiduciaires (suite)

16. Arreglos relativos a los gastos de apoyo de los programas de Fondos Fiduciarios de la FAO (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** I declare the Fourteenth Plenary Session open, and I call upon the distinguished representative of the Netherlands. As I said yesterday, the Netherlands is the most important donor in the field of Trust Funds for the Field Programme.

**P.R. JANUS (Netherlands):** First of all, I would like to thank the Deputy Director-General, Mr Shah, for his elaborate introduction of the documentation. I would like to thank Dr Bommer, Chairman of the Programme Committee, for his remarks.

As you said, Mr Chairman, as one of the countries with a large programme of activities, with presently more than 100 projects, and with a yearly commitment level of between 30 and 40 million US dollars to FAO's Trust Fund programmes, the Netherlands naturally has a keen interest in the subject we are now discussing.

We have studied document CL 102/18 as well as the report of the consultant very carefully.

Let me first express our gratitude to the Director-General that he arranged a briefing last June on this subject, thus giving us the opportunity to seek clarification on certain points and to present our preliminary comments on the consultant study.

My Government agrees with the views expressed in paragraph 27 of document CL 102/18 concerning the factors that any new arrangement should take into account. They are similar to the considerations on which the design of the new UNDP support cost successor regime was based.

My Government also agrees that there is a need for transparency in rate calculations, accountability in the delivery of services and cost controls, as mentioned in paragraph 15 of the Executive Summary of the consultant's report. The proposal contained in this report that in each biennium the rates will be calculated and then subsequently the actual support costs reimbursed and expenditures will be calculated will definitely contribute to increased transparency.

My Government also agrees with the conclusion of the FAO review, endorsed by the Conference, that the Regular and Field Programmes are intertwined, both in structure and function, that the Regular Programme contributes to the Field Programme and that in turn the Regular Programme receives data and feedback from the Field Programme.

In view of the benefits that the Regular Programme derives from the Field Programme, including those financed through trust funds, my Government is of the opinion that some degree of cost-sharing between both programmes should take place. That implies that in our view there should not be a full reimbursement of the costs of support services of the Regular Programme to the Trust Fund projects and programmes. This is also what is now, to a certain extent, being proposed. One could, of course, argue about the question of what level of cost-sharing would represent a realistic reflection of the benefits that the Regular Programme derives from Trust Fund activities.

We will not do so, mainly because it will be quite difficult to quantify these benefits. Let me just inform you and the Council that my Government broadly accepts the proposals contained in the document, including the proposed level of cost-sharing. However, my Government is not entirely convinced that these proposals completely meet the requirement that they should be easy to understand and apply. The proposed mechanism is quite complex and we may only hope that its similarity to the UNDP support cost successor regime will facilitate its implementation.

My Government would also like to receive clarification on one point. In paragraph 4 of the Executive Summary it is said that billing of technical support services would be based upon amounts set in project budgets rather than on actual time spent. The question is: How does this relate to the general principle, as reflected in paragraph 12 b of the Executive Summary of the consultant's report that "changes would be made for services only after they had been provided?"

In concluding, of course, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. We have to see how the proposed mechanism will work in practice. My Government should therefore like to reserve the right to come back on its position if, after we have adopted and had some experience with this new mechanism, it does not work as well as we hope it will.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus):** Mr Chairman, this is one of the most important issues before the Council since it concerns the Trust Fund programme and since the proposal before us has long-term implications.

To start with, we would like to express our thanks to the Deputy Director-General, Mr Shah, for his usual very clear and concrete detailed introduction of these important items.

Our thanks also go to Dr Bommer for his valuable remarks.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Director-General for the analysis submitted and to the Programme and Finance Committees for their thorough study and advice on the matter. We are also pleased that since the subject has been studied by external consultants, the consultants' report is before us. We believe that certainly the Council has all the information needed in order to have a thorough debate and to come to clear conclusions.

My delegation is convinced that a solution has to be found to the longstanding problem of Trust Fund programmes not providing the resources needed, with a consequent drain on Regular Programme resources. At the same time, we attach importance to Trust Fund programmes being implemented at the requisite

level of technical support. The quality of this technical support is paramount and should not be sacrificed by inadequate support costs.

It is for these reasons that we support the methodology proposed by the consultant and endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees.

In view of the issues involved and the position of various Member Nations regarding these, there are two important points to which my Government attaches importance.

Firstly, we believe that the approach proposed is a judicious one. It attacks the root of the problem and provides a reasoned solution. It would be a mistake for the Council to press for the full recovery of all costs from Trust Fund donors. We therefore favour the balance of the approach proposed.

Secondly, we, too, share the fear of some donors that increasing support cost reimbursements may lead to a reduction of the Trust Fund programme. Some fear is natural. We all wish the Trust Fund programme to increase further in order to better satisfy the requirements of agricultural development. However, we should not succumb to fear. I would say that fear does not provide an adequate basis for action. If the problem is not handled, the Trust Fund programme will decline in any case, for two reasons: firstly, because Trust Fund donors and recipient countries will not be satisfied with any decline in the quality of the programme; and, secondly, because we will find it difficult to agree to a continuing subsidy from the Regular Programme at increasingly higher levels.

We therefore urge the Council to unite in a consensus on the proposals submitted to us and to invite the Director-General to submit his firm proposals to us next year so that they can be approved by the Conference and be put into effect without delay.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Je voudrais intervenir à un double niveau, d'abord sur le plan philosophique et politique, et d'autre part sur le plan technique.

En ce qui concerne le plan philosophique et général, je dirai que cette discussion complexe illustre bien les propos que ma délégation tenait vendredi dernier sur le point 14 de l'ordre du jour, à savoir que la multiplication des contributions volontaires ou négociées, par rapport aux contributions ordinaires, crée des difficultés qui n'existeraient pas si le financement régulier de l'Organisation était ce qu'il devrait être, et qu'on devrait éviter d'avoir souvent recours à cette formule qui aurait dû rester exceptionnelle.

Nous le répétons, notre Organisation ne doit pas être une Organisation à la carte, dans laquelle indirectement le Programme ordinaire, c'est-à-dire les contributions régulières, paierait des interventions particulières. Il serait beaucoup plus simple que les Programmes de terrain soient financés normalement par l'Organisation elle-même. Mais enfin, il est permis de rêver. Soyons pragmatiques, et revenons à nos moutons, c'est-à-dire à la proposition qui nous est faite.

Nous avons examiné avec intérêt l'étude sur les calculs des coûts d'appui des projets financés par les fonds fiduciaires, réalisée par le Bureau américain Griffith et Associates.

Ma délégation remercie le Secrétariat et félicite M. Shah pour sa remarquable présentation qui prouve que c'est bien l'objectif de transparence des coûts des appuis techniques et administratifs fournis par l'Administration qui est suivi dans la démarche.

Cela correspond tout à fait au mandat qui avait été donné par la Conférence, à savoir que les donateurs doivent financer les coûts réels des interventions qu'ils demandent. Cet effort apparaît d'autant plus utile que les projets ainsi financés représentent désormais plus de 45 pour cent du Programme de terrain et contribuent donc de manière importante à la réalisation du mandat de la FAO.

Cependant, le changement de système proposé par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier soulève, selon ma délégation, des questions de fond auxquelles il faudrait répondre.

Tout d'abord, la prudence nous conduirait à recommander une simulation sur un échantillon du programme financé par les fonds fiduciaires de manière à mieux cerner l'impact réel de ce nouveau mode de calcul sur les différents types de projet. En effet, dans un contexte de compétition croissante entre les opérateurs susceptibles d'exécuter les projets de développement, l'Organisation doit vérifier qu'elle est capable de relever à la fois le défi de la qualité des services qu'elle fournit et celui de l'adaptation de ses mécanismes administratifs.

Deuxièmement, par voie de conséquence, nous nous interrogeons sur les effets mécaniques de la formule proposée sur le porte-feuille de projets. M. Shah nous a dit qu'il ne pensait pas qu'il y aurait une diminution de la capacité d'intervention mais peut-être que l'alourdissement des charges pourrait conduire à beaucoup plus de prudence de la part des donateurs.

Enfin, il nous semble - et cela rejoint ma réflexion générale - que l'intérêt des fonds fiduciaires est plutôt de financer des petits projets qui rentrent dans la vocation même de l'appui technique que peut apporter la FAO. Or les petits projets ne peuvent bénéficier d'économies d'échelle et le système qui nous est proposé ne va-t-il pas avoir pour conséquence d'encourager plutôt de grands projets? Voilà la question que je voulais poser.

Nous aimerions enfin avoir de plus grandes informations sur les modalités d'imputation des coûts d'appui pour des projets interinstitutions réalisés notamment avec d'autres institutions multilatérales.

Ma délégation rappelle, par ailleurs, que le Conseil d'administration du PNUD ne sera saisi de l'examen du nouvel arrangement qu'à sa réunion de 1994. Il nous semble donc opportun de mettre à profit ce délai pour approfondir notre réflexion sur l'impact des mesures préconisées et effectuer toutes les simulations dont je parlais tout à l'heure, qui sont indispensables pour voir les effets des mesures proposées. Cette période de temps devrait également être employée pour comparer ce qui est proposé aux pratiques d'autres institutions et organisations.

**Bo WILEN (Sweden):** My delegation has studied with great interest the FAO proposal for support cost arrangements for its Trust Fund programmes in document CL 102/18 and its supplement and the study conducted by specialized

consultants. My delegation would like to thank Mr Shah for his very complete introduction to the item on the Agenda.

Let me first make a few general comments. Sweden supports an arrangement that is in line with the spirit of the UNDP support cost arrangement. A support cost arrangement for FAO Trust Funds should be built up in such a way that it will promote cost-efficiency, transparency and accountability, as well as provide the possibility for agency involvement in connection with national execution. Moreover the system should be flexible. The support cost calculation should also enhance more accurate budgeting of the Trust Fund programmes.

My delegation supports the idea that the costs of support services required by Trust Fund programmes should be borne by the Trust Funds themselves and that the subsidies from the Regular Budget should be minimized. Some units in FAO have been established only for Trust Fund activities. The costs of these units must be paid in full from these funds. The reimbursement of costs based on delivery is essential. In this respect: the role and output of the DDR Mobilization Unit and the reimbursement of some of its costs is somewhat unclear to my delegation.

One of the reasons for taking the above position is that, in our opinion, extra-budgetary funding has a tendency to distort the focus on an integrated approach to development activities. The fundamental problem with this is that scarce resources for international development activities are not always directed towards the needs and priorities of the recipient countries.

My delegation would like to make some specific comments on the proposed system of support cost arrangements.

Although the proposed system is complex, it is positive that different reimbursement rates are calculated for different sectors of support activities.

The actual UNDP support cost successor arrangement establishes Technical Support Services at the Programme Level TSS-1 which contributes to achieving a sharper technical focus by agencies and to improving agency capacities for technical support to developing countries. In the first place, FAO should use TSS-1 services to identify the needs of recipient countries. There should also be a high degree of complementarity between the knowledge and quality of services that FAO is developing as an executing agency to UNDP projects and to recipient countries and the knowledge and quality of services that it is offering to the Trust Fund donors.

On the other hand, it is very difficult to measure the quality of TSS-2 services like project preparation, assessment and monitoring. A specialized agency like FAO should concentrate its efforts on improving TSS-2 activities and utilize reimbursements for support costs from Trust Funds to improve the qualifications of its own staff in these fields and hire outside experts only in exceptional cases.

Training and international personnel services are somewhat narrowly interpreted and simplified in the proposal. Very often training is the only element of sustainable development in the programmes, and its quality and quantity vary.



Another question is what will happen with support cost reimbursements in cases where there are several implementing agencies, like another UN agency, a donor or a local NGO. Will the support costs be paid to every one of them, since they all have administrative costs related to project implementation? How about the administrative costs of the recipient government?

All charges related to associate professional officers are already paid by donors and, in the view of my delegation, they should not cause any extra expenses to trust funds.

With those questions in mind, my delegation can accept a decision along the lines of the proposals in the consultant's report.

In conclusion, I will say a few words about the UNDP successor arrangements for agency support costs. As the new system became effective only this year, we cannot expect UNDP to give any thorough analysis of the experiences yet. However, Sweden expects that the Governing Council of the UNDP will receive a report on how the new system works in its session in 1994. After that we can determine whether or not the system needs some modifications.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** This 102nd Council Session has had to make repeated reference, under different items of the agenda, to budgetary problems mainly caused by the financial crisis our Organization has been suffering from over a longer period. Cost reimbursements not covering the actual expenditure of support services for projects funded by UNDP or implemented under Trust Funds have added to this problem. Therefore, my Government supports new arrangements to contain - I quote from the Finance Committee's Report, document CL 102/17, paragraph 3.54 - "the steady increase in excess of actual support cost expenditure over amounts reimbursed" because it represents a growing burden to the regular budget. The reasons for the need to change the current regime appear plausible, hoping that the new system with its methodology will be sufficiently clear to be understood and applied by those having to work with it, although I must admit that Mr Shah has helped us with his traditionally very clear explanation on this complex matter to dissipate some of the doubts we still harbour.

Without going into specific technicalities, I should like to hint at some merits the new arrangements will obviously have: accountability in regard to type, quality and cost services; due consideration of the interests of the parties involved, i.e. donor and recipient governments, as well as FAO; higher quality and competitiveness of the services rendered by FAO.

My delegation looks forward to receiving further details on the viability of the new system and its likely financial consequences for the field work of FAO.

**John A. BAILEY (Australia):** Australia commends FAO on its prompt responses to the decision of the 26th Session of the FAO Conference to revise the Trust Fund's support cost arrangements. We thank Mr Shah for his comprehensive introduction to this item.

Australia supports acceptance by Council of recommendations prepared by the consultant. However, we note that the consultant has identified a subsidy being paid to the Trust Fund's programme from the FAO Regular Programme in the

provision of services which is not being reimbursed by donors. Australia considers that the arguments for and against the subsidy should be examined thoroughly through the Finance and Programme Committee before a decision is reached on the subsidy's continuation. It would be helpful if the extent of the subsidy were to be calculated and reported to FAO Member Countries.

We look forward to finalizing this matter at the next Council meeting.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** Let me begin by welcoming this paper and the consultants' proposals on Trust Fund support costs. We think the consultants have done a good job and their recommendations are very much a step in the right direction.

That said, as I mentioned in our intervention yesterday on the approved Programme Budget for 1992-93, we do remain concerned over the increased subsidy from the Regular Programme and the widening of the support cost funding gap. Let me be clear that we accept the concept of some degree of subsidy from the Regular Programme, and acknowledge that the Regular Programme is making its technical and analytical work available to field projects. However, what worries us is the level of subsidy which we consider to be too high.

I do not want to comment in great detail on the proposed approach to new arrangements as set out in the document before us. As I say, we support the basis proposed, particularly such key objectives as the containment and reduction of the Regular Budget subsidy to the Field Programme, the provision for greater budgetary transparency which is absolutely paramount in our view, and also the attempt to follow the spirit of the UNDP's successful arrangements. Whilst we can support these proposals, we also believe that at a time of cost cutting and prioritization of FAO's resources and activities (one of the major themes of our discussion yesterday) it might be worth setting out briefly what my Government considers to be the most appropriate and prudent approach to Trust Fund arrangements. In doing so, I address myself not just to the Secretariat, but to the membership as a whole, because, as Mr Shah said quite rightly this morning this issue affects all of us. We believe that key principles to be considered are as follows:

One, bilateral Trust Fund donors should consider carefully which agency is best placed to undertake a particular project. This may not necessarily be FAO.

Two donors should ensure that any projects to be undertaken by FAO should clearly be within its areas of comparative advantage.

Three, for its part - and I know that it is a very difficult choice to make - FAO should reject those proposals which do not fall into agreed high-priority areas. Failure to take such decisions could lead to the diversion to both staff and programme resources from higher priority core activities funded by the membership as a whole. In fact, this was a point made eloquently earlier by the distinguished delegate from Sweden.

Four, once Trust Fund arrangements have been agreed, the donor should ensure that the project is fully funded and entails no cross-subsidy from the Regular Budget.

These views will come as no surprise to the Council. We have advanced them regularly. However, we do feel strongly that in an area which occupies such a major element of FAO's budget and overall income, which hitherto has not been open to full scrutiny by the wider membership of this Organization, radical changes are required. The consultants' proposal begins to take us in that direction and we can support them, but, as I said at the outset, we believe more needs to be done, particularly in the four areas of fundamental importance which I have just outlined.

**Takayoshi ISHIDERA (Japan):** Firstly, it seems that FAO is anxious about the decrease in the reimbursement of support costs which the FAO has got through the execution of projects so far. Japan is of the view that FAO should endeavour to ensure its external resources through its intellectual contribution toward the upstream originally required. In order to do so, it is necessary that FAO restructures itself and strengthens the capacity of its experts. At the same time, in particular Japan considers that FAO should make every effort, in the light of the main role of FAO which is to play a catalytic role through international and regional activities. Secondly, with regard to new support cost arrangements for FAO's Trust Fund programmes, since 1981 FAO's Trust Fund programmes have been subject to the standard flat rate of 13 percent. Japan calls in question the fact that FAO easily denies the fact that almost all other agencies in the UN system have applied the standard rate of 13 percent although the basis of 13 percent is lacking in accuracy.

Japan is of the view that the relationship between the Regular and the Field Programmes must be taken into account sufficiently in considering new support cost arrangements. Japan supposes that in future the structure and functions of the Field Programmes will be closer to those of the Regular Programmes, and the relationship will be increasingly intertwined. In this context, the level of the Regular Programme subsidy should not be reduced.

Finally, Japan would like to request the Secretariat to give the whole figure of typical projects to compare with the existing 13 percent although the methodology is explained clearly in appendix CL 102/18. Also, Japan would like to continue to scrutinize in future.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais souligner que le Japon est devenu progressivement un donateur important en fonds fiduciaires.

**Yvan JOBIN (Canada):** My delegation would like to confirm the views expressed by Canada at the recent Programme and Finance Committee, which provide a comment on document CL 102/18 and make reference to the consultant's study on Trust Fund support cost arrangements and reimbursement methodology. Canada has consistently supported the principle of full cost recovery from extra-budgetary Trust Fund field project activities, and we continue to hold this view. We have also been alarmed by the growing discrepancy between project costs and revenues.

Therefore, we welcome the consultant's comprehensive proposal. We view this as a rational move toward equitable compensation to FAO for field service activities. As a major donor to the Regular Programme, Canada fully supports efforts to reduce the use of regular funds as a subsidy to cover field project costs.

We note, however, the critical necessity for FAO, under an increased cost recovery scheme, to provide technical assistance on a continuing basis of the highest quality and value. Clearly this underlies the principle, which we fully support, that choice by donors for FAO services will be made increasingly on grounds of excellence in operational and technical services, rather than a low-cost alternative source. Indeed, the Secretariat's estimates, reported to the Finance Committee, of the total costs incurred in support of field projects by FAO, as adjusted to capture fully central and departmental support costs, compare very favourably with the consultant's findings of such costs used by large public and private sector institutions. Assuming the accuracy of the estimates, there exists a substantial comparative cost advantage of perhaps 5 percent in FAO's favour, which clearly obviated the need for a subsidy to contain existing programme levels.

In these circumstances it is appropriate for any attendant technical synergies to accrue to the service provider, as they would represent the only recompense for a service provided at cost and below what the market will bear.

Notwithstanding these comments, we remain somewhat unclear on the implications and possible effects this proposal will have on FAO's budget and organizational activities. We thus look forward to further clarification.

A related matter of growing concern to Canada as a contributor of both voluntary and assessed funding to many multilateral organizations is the tendency of many donors to increase extra-budgetary or complementary funding.

We regard this current trend as a severe threat to the precepts of multilateralism because it challenges the autonomy of the Organization and potentially restricts the fulfilment of strategic objectives and programme priorities decided by the membership as a whole. In this connection, we can associate with suggestions made earlier in this Council Session regarding strengthened membership oversight of Field Programme activities. We would also support the principles articulated by the United Kingdom.

Having said this, and in anticipation of further clarifications from the Secretariat, we believe the proposal before us is a most useful contribution to transparency, cost definition and burden-sharing. It is an important beginning towards shifting the burden of field project costs to the funding source where it appropriately belongs, and which we believe needs to continue towards full cost recovery.

**Ni HONGXING (China) (Original language Chinese):** First of all, I thank the Secretariat for preparing document CL 102/18. This morning Mr Shah gave us a very comprehensive introduction, and I should like to make some remarks here on this Agenda Item.

Not only do FAO Field Programme projects provide direct technical assistance to the developing countries, thus making FAO's presence felt in member countries, but these Field Programmes also contribute to the improvement of Regular Programme formulation and implementation through the feedback of field information and accumulated experience.

It is essential that the Regular Programme provides a subsidy to Field Programmes. However, the crux of the matter lies in how and how much subsidy is to be given. The consultant's recommendations constitute a very good basis

for the further study and discussions of this problem. In our view, the new arrangements for support cost reimbursement should take into account the subsidizing capacity of the Regular Programme to ensure that more and better technical services be rendered by the FAO to Trust Fund projects. At the same time, the specificity of each project and its costs should be borne in mind to ensure a rational distribution of support cost charges among donor countries, recipient countries and the FAO, so as to lead to a continuous growth in the total amount of technical assistance available to the Trust Funds.

**Ms Teresa HOBGOOD (United States of America):** My delegation would like to express appreciation to Mr Shah for this thorough and rather convincing introductory remarks to this Agenda Item. We would also like to thank Dr Bommer for his helpful remarks as well. As a member of the Finance Committee, my delegation's comments on this agenda item will be brief.

First, the United States welcomes the study of David M. Griffith and Associates on support cost arrangements for projects financed from Trust Funds. We believe that the development of a system that is cost-effective, transparent, and closely related to the cost of services provided to Trust Fund donors is more useful than the current 13 percent charge. While the recommendations of the consultant represent what we believe is a step in the right direction, and these recommendations provide for greater recovery of cost and a reduction of the subsidy required of the Regular Budget, my delegation prefers a financial scheme that requires Trust Fund donors to pay for the full cost of FAO-administered Trust Fund projects.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Le fait que les fonds fiduciaires représentent actuellement la principale source du fonds extra budgétaire du Programme de la FAO mérite d'être à nouveau souligné en souhaitant que cette tendance soit encore renforcée.

L'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour nous amène à nous pencher sur un problème qui est à la fois d'ordre technique - technique financière et budgétaire - et à caractère politique, s'agissant de l'approche de l'utilisation des fonds fiduciaires qui financent les projets exécutés par la FAO.

Nous n'entrerons pas dans des considérations détaillées surtout après avoir entendu la présentation exhaustive faite par M. Shah ce matin. Toutefois, ma délégation note qu'il s'agit là d'un processus qui a commencé par recueillir les avis de divers représentants de pays donateurs, des services du soutien technique et administratif de la FAO, en tenant compte aussi des nouveaux arrangements du PNUD, tout ceci avec le soutien actif du bureau d'étude David Griffith et associés, ici représenté. Je crois que cette très large base d'information nous garantit la viabilité de la nouvelle méthodologie qui semble également avoir recueilli l'assentiment de principe des Comités financiers et du Programme qui ont eu le temps de se pencher sur ce point.

Nous sommes favorables à ce nouveau système dont l'une des caractéristiques devrait être d'assurer à la FAO des ressources suffisantes non seulement pour maintenir mais également pour accroître la fourniture de services de qualité aux projets - des services du plus haut niveau possible. Tout ceci est à l'avantage des bénéficiaires et améliore la transparence et le contrôle des

coûts et services non seulement de la part des bénéficiaires eux-mêmes mais aussi des donateurs.

**Amin ABEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** La délégation libanaise tient à remercier M. Shah pour sa présentation exhaustive et claire des documents relatifs au remboursement des dépenses d'appui. Elle tient également à remercier M. Bommer pour les éclaircissements supplémentaires qu'il a apportés,

Le problème des dépenses d'appui a suscité l'intérêt de tous au cours des nombreuses réunions et il est d'ailleurs toujours l'objet de discussions et d'opinions divergentes.

Le Liban n'entrera pas dans les détails pour ne pas prolonger les débats d'autant que cette question a déjà été débattue. Toutefois, nous appuyons les propositions du Secrétariat qui figurent dans les documents, propositions que nous avons déjà approuvées au sein du Comité financier. Il existe un seul point que je voudrais souligner, à savoir la nécessité de poursuivre l'exécution des Programmes de terrain dans le cadre des attributions de la FAO. Tout changement en la matière pourrait être préjudiciable à l'Organisation et aux pays bénéficiaires. Merci Monsieur le Président.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** Les autorités malgaches en charge des questions relatives aux institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies, ont toujours suivi de très près le problème du remboursement des dépenses d'appui pour les projets financés par les fonds fiduciaires, car elles sont convaincues que de leurs résolutions dépendront le succès des opérations de terrain ainsi que l'efficacité et la pérennité des liens d'appui réciproques entre le Programme de terrain et le Programme ordinaire.

En effet, comme il est indiqué dans les documents du Secrétariat, le Programme de terrain tout en utilisant les ressources du fonds fiduciaire, renforcent le Programme ordinaire, mais en revanche il ne peut se passer de l'appui technique et scientifique du Programme ordinaire. Il doit utiliser les systèmes statistiques et centres d'information et de documentation mondiales dont dispose ce dernier.

Les deux programmes devront être en excellente santé et les Etats Membres ont le devoir de veiller à ce qu'il en soit ainsi.

La délégation malgache a examiné en profondeur les documents CL 102/17 et CL 102/18 et en est satisfaite. Elle félicite les Comités du Programme et financier pour le sérieux et la compétence avec lesquels ils ont étudiés le sujet.

Nous rendons hommage à leurs présidents, le Dr Bommer et le Dr Di Mottola.

Nous appuyons totalement les recommandations pertinentes que les Comités nous adressent, notamment celles relatives à la méthodologie permettant de déterminer les dépenses d'appui et celles concernant l'opportunité d'augmenter le taux de remboursement pour avoisiner le niveau réel des dépenses étant entendu que la FAO est encouragée dans ses efforts permanents pour améliorer ses performances.

Compte tenu de l'importance capitale des projets de terrain pour la relance de notre économie et de notre développement, nous estimons, pour notre part, que le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation devrait continuer à prévoir des dépenses correspondant à la prise en charge de certains coûts indirects fixes, participation normale de l'Organisation au Programme de terrain.

Nous convenons cependant, avec les comités, que les dépenses d'appui, en tout cas celles correspondant aux coûts directs, devraient être supportées par les donateurs.

Dans l'évaluation des coûts des projets, ces dépenses devraient être prévues et estimées d'une manière exacte, condition sine qua non de leur réussite.

Nous souhaitons que le Conseil d'administration du PNUD, lorsqu'il se réunira en 1994, puisse partager nos préoccupations et par conséquent approuver les nouveaux arrangements réajustés s'il le faut, tels que suggérés au paragraphe 88 du document CL 102/17. Ceci est d'une importance majeure pour nos pays au moment où nous nous acheminons progressivement vers l'exécution nationale des projets.

**Adelaide RIBEIRO (Cap Vert):** Tout d'abord, nous remercions M. Shah pour l'excellente intervention introduisant ce point de l'ordre du jour. Ma délégation est d'accord avec la position du Comité Conjoint pour convenir de l'opportunité d'augmenter le taux de remboursement des dépenses d'appui et approuver la méthodologie permettant d'établir les nouveaux arrangements en conformité avec le contenu du paragraphe 27 du document CL 102/18.

Tenant compte du rôle très important joué par les opérations de terrain dans nos pays et tout en reconnaissant le besoin d'assurer de meilleurs programmes et une meilleure qualité des services techniques et opérationnels qui doivent être fournis, nous espérons qu'une entente sera établie entre la FAO et les contributeurs des fonds fiduciaires et que l'on évite un recours excessif au budget du Programme ordinaire.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** A l'instar des autres délégations, nous voudrions aussi remercier M. Shah et M. Bommer pour leur exposé introductif et surtout assurer M. Shah que nous l'avons suivi avec une attention particulière. Les détails complémentaires qu'il a bien voulu mettre à notre disposition lui ont donné amplement raison quand il a dit qu'il prendrait un peu de temps pour donner des détails. Ces détails, vraiment pertinents, nous ont permis d'avoir une connaissance un peu plus approfondie du sujet qui est à l'ordre du jour.

Nous voudrions également réaffirmer qu'il existe, entre le Programme ordinaire et le Programme de terrain, un lien indéniable, le Programme ordinaire venant appuyer le Programme de terrain dont l'analyse de celui-ci.

Nous voudrions également dire, comme l'a dit M. Shah, qu'avec une part d'environ 48 pour cent les fonds fiduciaires sont de loin la part la plus importante des Programmes de terrain.

En outre, bien que la définition du cadre du fonds fiduciaire remonte à 1981, nous avons noté que la dernière fixation des taux de remboursement remonte à 1985 et que depuis l'écart entre les frais engagés et le remboursement obtenu des fonds fiduciaires n'a fait que s'accroître. Ce faisant, nous pensons que

le moment est plus qu'indiqué pour qu'une révision du régime des taux de remboursement soit opérée.

Nous nous félicitons de ce que, aux fins des formulations de nouvelles propositions, le Secrétariat ait pris le temps d'engager un consultant qui a fait un rapport que nous estimons très utile pour la poursuite de la réflexion. Grâce aux informations complémentaires que M. Shah nous a données, nous avons noté que cette révision des taux se ferait de façon périodique, en consultation avec le PNUD, pour chaque exercice biennal. Nous ne voudrions pas entrer dans les détails parce que la question est complexe. Je crois qu'au stade actuel, ce qu'il convient de faire c'est d'apprécier la démarche engagée pour arriver à cette révision dont nous sommes, je crois, tous convaincus aujourd'hui.

Pour notre part, nous estimons que les propositions avancées par le Secrétariat pour arriver à la révision du taux de remboursement est une procédure souple, responsable, que nous acceptons, d'autant plus que dans le paragraphe 1.24 du document CL 102/17, sont définis clairement les objectifs poursuivis dans la méthodologie qui est préconisée et qui ne visent pas seulement la révision des taux en tant que tels, mais qui visent le renforcement de la qualité des projets qui bénéficieront des taux fiduciaires.

Pour cet ensemble de propositions, je crois qu'au stade actuel nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer cette démarche et émettre le souhait que le PNUD, lors de son conseil d'administration qui se tiendra en 1994, puisse dans son principe accepter cette révision et se mettre à la disposition du partenaire qui est la FAO afin de discuter de la meilleure manière le taux de remboursement à convenir périodiquement pour chaque biennium. C'est tout ce que nous pouvons faire actuellement d'autant plus qu'il n'est pas question de fixer un chiffre précis. Ce qui est important aujourd'hui c'est la démarche. A ce titre nous appuyons totalement la démarche envisagée par le Secrétariat.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** The Philippines delegation wishes first of all to endorse the report of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees of which it is a member. I wish to reiterate the importance of the Field Programme in its mutual supported role and supported by its links with the Regular Programme.

The Philippines delegation shares the concern of the joint meeting regarding the widening gap between support costs and the current reimbursement rates. The Philippines delegation welcomes the methodology for identifying the support costs. This has been developed by the firm of David M. Griffith and Associates who have conducted the recent UNDP support sponsored costs measurement study to establish reimbursement rates for the UNDP which has been accepted by donors. We believe it is an excellent study because it is applicable to different types of projects and services and increases the transparency in the identification of costs which can lead to a more equitable apportioning of costs.

Furthermore, Mr Chairman, it can strengthen the ability of FAO to provide a high quality service because if a service is underpaid you cannot expect it to be very good unless you have a great level of subsidy which it is always very difficult to maintain. Furthermore, this methodology would enable the governing bodies to determine a level of support which would be supportable by the Regular Programme.



The Philippines delegation, therefore, supports the conclusion reached by the joint meeting that the extent of support costs and reimbursement be increased to cover direct and indirect incremental costs. We, however, accept the principle that some subsidy of the Regular Programme could be acceptable, particularly with regard to indirect fixed costs of the various projects. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** My delegation intervenes on this particular Agenda Item because of its seminal importance to the funding of programmes and projects which affect the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in countries like my own.

Mr Chairman, there is an unanimity of views among the membership of FAO about the importance this Organization has in terms of agriculture, forestry and fisheries development and its unique ability to contribute in this regard in areas and in countries where such support is most needed, and even where there is disagreement in modalities for providing this support there is a convergence of views, but there is an organic linkage between the Field Programme and the Regular Programme underscoring not only the complementarities between the programmes but the need to ensure that these links are maintained and strengthened.

This view of the operation and this approach to the conduct of the mandated affairs of the Organization are not a matter of merely organizational and administrative convenience but it is pragmatic and it makes sense, as we note in paragraph 1.20 of document CL 102/18. Indeed, Mr Chairman, we note too that these Trust Funds constitute 50 percent of the support to the Field Programmes.

What is also important so far as development is concerned, and in so far as those of us who deem ourselves to be worthy of benefitting from such contributions, is the fact that in a situation of reduced financial outlays for funding developments that we need not look askance at the contribution that Trust Funds might make to valid development in our agriculture, forestry and fisheries, wherever.

Therefore, it is absolutely and particularly necessary that the Organization and the Trust Fund donors are at one in their understanding of how the funds are being spent, for what purposes, and that there is a measure of transparency which is satisfactory to all concerned in this regard.

As a consequence, therefore, we note with pleasure the response of the Secretariat to the decision of Conference in 1991. We note the summary of the proposals by the consultants which, in our view, is a step in the right direction and, without commenting on the technical aspects of the report, we look at the principle of the approach that is being suggested to us by the consultants. We look forward to a speedy resolution of this issue such as might facilitate an increased flow of such funds for development activities within the remit of the Organization to which we belong. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand):** First of all, I would like to thank the Director-General, Mr Shah, and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for their lucid introduction.

We are all willing to see that support cost reimbursement be increased to cover all direct and indirect incremental costs. Like many previous speakers, my delegation is ready to endorse the proposed methodology for changing support costs to projects financed by funds in trust, as contained in document CL 102/18. On this item, however, I would like to offer a few comments as follows.

First, as the representative of a recipient country, I would like to confirm the fact that was first recognized by the Group of Experts on FAO's field operations which stated that one of the difficulties in providing good technical support is that insufficient funds are provided by UNDP and Trust Fund donors, as mentioned in paragraph 22. There was evidence to support this fact mentioned in paragraph 23. That is, the lack of funding for project formulations and appraisals have adversely affected projects in their critical design stage. In this connection, I regret to note that technical backstopping from Headquarters of these activities is still not covered, as mentioned in the last sentence of this paragraph.

I would like on this occasion to put one question to the Secretariat or to Mr Shah, the Deputy Director-General, that after the Conference has approved this new methodology, Headquarters will be able to provide enough funds to solve the problem.

Secondly, I would like to refer to the method of international expert recruitment. From our experience we have learned that in selecting an expert to work in any country, each time FAO will nominate only one name to a recipient country. Thus, some projects take a lot of time to get a good expert. We believe that if this method could be changed and if more than one expert could be sent for selection by the recipient country, then a lot of time would be saved and the budgets for the International Expert Recruitment Service would be reduced.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Les délégations du Maroc et de la Libye ont demandé que leurs discours soient insérés dans les procès-verbaux.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Nous avons toujours considéré que les Programmes de terrain constituaient la pierre angulaire des activités de la FAO, de même que nous reconnaissons les liens étroits entre Programmes de terrain et Programme ordinaire.

D'année en année, l'écart est croissant entre les dépenses d'appui et les montants remboursés.

Au cours de l'examen de cette question par le Comité financier, lors de sa soixante-quatorzième session, nous avons eu à rendre hommage au Directeur général pour son attitude face à cette situation, de même que nous avons eu à approuver l'approche proposée pour les nouveaux arrangements.

Nous sommes en mesure de dire que la méthodologie proposée vise non seulement à déterminer le taux de remboursement des dépenses, mais surtout à renforcer la qualité de la gestion des projets financés par les fonds fiduciaires, et leur rentabilité.

S'agissant du remboursement des coûts supportés par les services d'appui centraux de la FAO, nous considérons que ceux-ci devraient continuer à être pris en charge par le Programme ordinaire et qu'il n'est pas dans l'intérêt de l'Organisation que ces coûts soient intégralement remboursés.

Pour ce qui concerne les dépenses d'appui, ou coûts directs, nous continuons à penser qu'elles devraient être, dans toute la mesure possible, supportées par les pays donateurs<sup>1</sup>.

**Saleh SAHBOUN (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** The delegation of my country took note of the document CL 102/18 and its Supplement 1 presented. While my delegation expresses its thanks for the clarification made by Mr Shah in this regard, it seems appropriate, in the light of the complicated nature of the subject and its importance, to allow some time till a future session, to further study, examine and analyze this matter, particularly in the light of the consultative study prepared on this matter.

There are several questions to be posed by several delegations in this hall as well as many other questions that could be raised with the FAO Secretariat for which some information and analysis could be obtained.

This further time would enable us to come out with a careful decision which could have positive, quantitative and qualitative, results upon those who fund the services rendered to executed projects, those who deliver these services and those who benefit from them.<sup>2</sup>

**LE PRESIDENT:** S'il n'y a plus de Membres du Conseil qui désirent intervenir su ce point particulièrement important, je donnerai la parole aux observateurs qui désirent la prendre.

Je donne la parole au représentant du PNUD.

**Ariel FRANÇAIS (PNUD):** Je souhaite tout d'abord vous faire part, au nom de l'Administrateur, de l'intérêt que le PNUD porte au déroulement de vos travaux.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture est un partenaire clé pour la mise en oeuvre des programmes financés par le PNUD, et nous vous assurons de notre attachement à la poursuite de notre coopération.

La FAO doit faire face aujourd'hui à d'importants changements dictés par un environnement international en rapide évolution. Parmi ces changements figurent, entre autres, l'évolution du cadre institutionnel qui régit la coopération internationale et, plus particulièrement, la modification de mécanismes qui supportent cette dernière.

Au sein du système des Nations Unies, votre institution devra apporter une réponse au problème de la transition entre l'ancien systède collaboration

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<sup>1</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

<sup>2</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

tripartite et les nouvelles modalités d'exécution des programmes telles que définies dans la Résolution 44/211 de l'Assemblée Générale, et telles que complétées par les décisions du Conseil d'administration du PNUD pour ce qui est de l'approche programme, de l'exécution par des entités nationales, et du nouveau système de financement des dépenses d'appui des organisations du système.

1 Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

2 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Le nouveau régime de coopération tripartite mettra, comme vous le savez, l'accent sur le renforcement des capacités nationales, mais il dépendra tout autant de l'appui critique des institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies dans les domaines de haute valeur ajoutée intellectuelle que constitue, entre autres, la formulation d'orientations stratégiques en amont des politiques et programmes de développement ou, encore, la mobilisation d'une expertise pointue pour la conception, la supervision et l'évaluation des activités opérationnelles dans les domaines d'excellence respectifs des institutions concernées.

Cette évolution exigera, à l'évidence, des efforts d'adaptation dont le PNUD est pleinement conscient.

Telle est la raison pour laquelle il a été convenu de ménager aux institutions spécialisées une période de transition entre l'ancien et le nouveau régime.

Les cinq institutions spécialisées sujettes au nouveau mécanisme de financement des dépenses d'appui sont ainsi à ce jour chargées de l'exécution d'une enveloppe de projets équivalente à 660 millions de dollars sur les ressources du cinquième cycle, montant devant être rapproché de l'objectif fixé par le Conseil d'administration de 500 millions de dollars à atteindre au 1er janvier 1992.

Comme précisé au Conseil d'administration, en mai dernier, le PNUD et les institutions sujettes au nouveau mécanisme ont d'un commun accord décidé de n'appliquer pleinement les nouveaux arrangements qu'à compter du 1er juillet 1992, ceci pour permettre une application en souplesse du nouveau dispositif.

Par-delà les problèmes de la transition, l'évolution des ressources mobilisables par le PNUD, comme les objectifs de programmation auxquels ce dernier doit s'assujettir, peuvent constituer, il est vrai, un sujet de préoccupation.

Ainsi, le taux présumé de croissance des ressources mobilisables par le PNUD a dû être ramené à quatre pour cent par an contre les huit pour cent initialement retenus par le Conseil d'administration pour le cinquième cycle de programmation, partant d'une base de ressources d'un milliard de dollars pour l'année 1991.

De ce fait, les objectifs de programmation ont dû par prudence être réduits, de façon à ce que les dépenses se situent à un niveau de 780 millions de dollars en 1992, 760 millions en 1993 et 730 millions en 1994, par rapport aux 870 millions de dépenses enregistrées en 1991, ceci pour tenir compte de l'évolution prévisible des ressources. A cet effet également, seuls 90 pour cent du montant des chiffres indicatifs de planification (CIP) ont été libérés aux fins de la programmation.

Aux problèmes induits par la révision à la baisse des objectifs de programmation s'ajoutent par ailleurs ceux découlant de la progression de

l'exécution par des entités nationales, sensible dès le quatrième cycle de programmation et conforme aux principes dégagés par la Résolution 44/211. Ainsi, l'exécution par des entités nationales, qui ne représentait que 13,5 pour cent de la valeur des projets approuvés dans le courant de l'année 1987, est-elle passée à 30 pour cent pour l'année 1991 et à 37 pour cent pour l'année 1992. En valeur absolue, les dépenses liées à l'exécution par des entités nationales sont passées de 67 millions de dollars en 1987 à 174 millions en 1991, avec un niveau projeté de 270 millions en 1994.

Les difficultés financières induites par cette évolution, comme celles plus conjoncturelles découlant de l'état des ressources, ne sauraient cependant faire perdre de vue les objectifs essentiels d'une réforme qui vise une revitalisation des modes opératoires du système des Nations Unies. A cet égard, il convient de souligner les progrès accomplis sur la voie de la mise en place du nouveau système.

Les directives requises pour la mise en oeuvre du nouveau régime ont été formulées en étroite concertation avec les institutions spécialisées et soumises pour examen au Conseil d'administration du PNUD. Ces directives sont aujourd'hui pleinement opérationnelles.

Les ressources programmables au titre du SAT 1, à savoir les services d'appui technique au niveau des programmes, sont d'ores et déjà engagées pour un montant total de 25 millions de dollars pour 1992-93. Celles programmables au titre du SAT-2, à savoir les services d'appui technique au niveau des projets, sont d'ores et déjà allouées aux bureaux extérieurs contre une enveloppe globale de 25 millions de dollars pour 1992-93. Par ailleurs, des directives ont été récemment adressées aux représentants résidents pour que tous les projets d'ores et déjà exécutés par des entités nationales soient systématiquement analysés sous l'angle de leurs besoins d'appui technique et que des fonds du SAT-2 leur soient alloués à cet effet.

Un programme de formation intensive, destiné à familiariser les parties concernées avec les nouvelles modalités d'exécution, a par ailleurs été lancé courant 1992. Les 15 ateliers sous-régionaux prévus à cet effet pour les fonctionnaires des bureaux extérieurs du PNUD et des institutions spécialisées ainsi que leurs homologues gouvernementaux seront tous tenus d'ici le mois de décembre. Tous les participants à ces ateliers se sont félicités de la formation dispensée, qui leur permettra d'appliquer avec l'efficacité voulue les nouvelles directives.

Au total, les mécanismes régissant le nouveau régime auront tous été mis en place dans le courant de l'année 1992 et il appartiendra aux hommes chargés de les mettre en oeuvre de les rendre pleinement opérationnels.

Pour conclure, il conviendrait donc de ne pas perdre de vue la finalité des changements en cours, qui vise à faire en sorte que les entités nationales aient la pleine maîtrise de leur processus de développement tout en mobilisant à cet effet le capital d'expertise et de savoir-faire des institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies.

Je me permettrai d'ajouter un mot sur le suivi de la Conférence de Rio et la mise en oeuvre de ses recommandations, sujet évoqué la semaine dernière dans le cadre du point 7 de l'ordre du jour. A ce propos, le mandat dont le PNUD a été chargé au plan du renforcement des capacités nationales comme son rôle dans la mobilisation des ressources de la Facilité globale pour

l'environnement font actuellement l'objet de consultations interagences auxquelles la FAO est associée. Ces questions seront évoquées, en particulier, le mois prochain, dans le cadre du Mécanisme de consultations interagences du PNUD, à New York.

Je souhaiterais enfin, pour terminer, répondre aux critiques adressées au PNUD à diverses reprises sur le rôle joué par son Bureau des services d'appui aux projets. Je me contenterai, à cet égard, de rappeler qu'il ne revient pas à ce Bureau, au titre de ses missions, de se substituer aux institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies dans leurs sphères de compétence respectives. Les fonctions assumées par ce Bureau sont d'ordre essentiellement logistique et visent à mobiliser des moyens dans des secteurs qui, soit ne relèvent pas du domaine d'expertise d'une institution spécialisée des Nations Unies, soit appellent des types d'interventions étrangères aux missions de ces dernières. Ni les critiques ni mes explications ne sont nouvelles. Il m'a toutefois paru opportun de faire cette mise au point.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le représentant du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement. En ce qui concerne le dernier point qu'il a mentionné, c'est un point que j'ai personnellement soulevé très souvent, le rôle du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement étant d'assurer une répartition financière en se servant au maximum des grandes agences opérationnelles des Nations Unies.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Excusez-moi, M. le Président, mais j'ai été retenu à l'extérieur de la salle. Je voudrais indiquer que je ferai insérer au procès-verbal de la séance l'intervention de ma délégation sur ce point.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie vivement le représentant du Maroc de bien vouloir suivre une procédure qui a déjà été recommandée à propos d'une intervention du représentant de Cuba. Il va de soi que l'intervention du représentant du Maroc sera insérée dans le compte rendu du débat.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** In order to provide the Secretariat response in as business like a way as the debate which has taken place under your direction, Mr Chairman, may I request that we deal with the response in the following way. If you would kindly agree to give the floor to Mr Gotthainer, the representative of David M. Griffiths and Associates, he is ready to answer those questions which relate to the report of the consultants and the suggestions made in that report. After his reply, I should then like to answer the questions which relate to the Secretariat.

**Michael GOTTHAINER (David M. Griffith and Associates Ltd., FAO Consultants):** I very much appreciate the opportunity to be here today and to try to answer the questions that were raised by some of the representatives and Council members.

I should like first to answer the question that was raised by the gentleman from the Netherlands concerning the procedures that were suggested for reimbursing technical support services. Our proposal is that the project

budget figures set the amount that would be reimbursed for any specific project, and we made that recommendation on the basis that FAO would have to use the project planning figure as the basis for developing its staffing for technical support services of the agency and therefore that, once an amount is agreed between a donor and FAO as to what services are provided for a project, that is the amount that should be reimbursed. We recognize that there is a slight clarification which will be necessary, because in another case we have indicated that payment will be made after the service is provided. This is because of the question that was raised in the Director-General's report to the Council concerning accountability. We felt it would be very beneficial both to FAO and to the donors that, prior to the actual charging for any specific service, there should be a certification from the service within FAO that the actual service had been provided. The amount billed would be at the budgeted amount, but the billing would not be required to be paid until the service had actually been provided.

The gentleman from France raised a question concerning the possibility of a simulation of projects which might be undertaken. I wanted to point out that we had taken twenty projects and done a simulation of the impact that the proposed new system would have on those existing projects. We received from FAO what we believed to be a generally representative sample of all the projects to try to see what administrative problems might develop because of the system as well as what the impact on the reimbursement would be. Based upon that sampling of projects, we did make some changes, which are included in the report. We hope this type of sampling was useful to FAO, and I am certain they will continue this analysis as part of their study of the proposals that we made.

A question was raised concerning multiple implementing agencies. I want to make one point on that. It was our suggestion, though it was not made very clear in the report, that in such a case a similar procedure be used (in the case of this FAO Trust Fund arrangement) to the arrangement followed under UNDP guidelines - that is, that an agency that continues under the old system would continue to be reimbursed under the old system and one under the new system would be reimbursed under the new system. If there was a sub-contractual arrangement with ILO, whatever arrangement ILO had in connection with the operation of its Trust Funds would continue to be provided under the sub-contractual relationship.

Similar procedures would be in effect in connection with an NGO, assuming an NGO had a formal arrangement for reimbursement of support cost, if not it would have to be negotiated on a project-by-project basis. Again, this is something which I think the Secretariat will have to consider very carefully because there are implications to this which will have to be discussed with other agencies. We did not make that effort as part of this study.

The last thing I should like to comment on is the question of why we chose to make a recommendation that only a percentage of the full cost be recovered and in effect that we isolated those fixed indirect costs as being those costs which should be continued to be supported from the Regular Budget.

I want to point out that we made an extensive effort to compute the total cost, not just the cost that we were recommending for reimbursement. If you have a copy of Annex 1 of our report, the exhibits at the back of the report, that annex shows in connection with the calculation of the charges the actual amount that is recommended to be charged and the total cost. We wanted to make

you aware that that was available to those who have a copy of the report annex.

Our main reason for recommending that the full cost of fixed indirect costs not be included in the reimbursement rate is because we have had extensive experience with this issue in non-governmental organizations, primarily in the US, but certainly with some international organizations. We have found that where extra-budgetary resources are used to finance certain very fixed elements of costs - for example, the operation of a payroll system, or the operation of the central personnel department - significant fluctuations in the level of delivery of services, which impact on the amount of reimbursement received for support costs, can have a devastating effect on the agency's ability within a biennium, particularly when its budget is already adopted. To continue to provide quality services, if the type of issues that were related to the recent changes in the accounting system had been undertaken, where part of the actual operating costs of that system had been financed from support costs, particularly in this period where there are changes in the level of support from some of the major funding sources, like UNDP, it could have been extremely critical if these things had been funded from this type of variable financing. This is the main reason why we recommended that these costs continue to be financed from the Regular Programme.

In closing, I should like to thank the Secretariat for giving us the opportunity to participate in the study. We hope that we have made a contribution to enabling the agency to continue to provide services to Trust Funds, because we recognize that they are of tremendous importance to development projects throughout the world.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the consultant for his intervention and will now give the floor again to Mr Shah.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** First of all, I wish to express our gratitude for the reception given by the Council to the proposals submitted to it. A large number of members, if not all, have particularly expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Director-General. It will be my privilege to convey these to him. By the same token, I should like to express the thanks of the Secretariat for the reception you have accorded our proposals. I should point out that your remarks are addressed not just to me, who was privileged to introduce this item, but also to my colleague Mr Regnier and all his colleagues in the Development Department and to Mr Mehboob, the Assistant Director-General of Administration and Finance, and all his colleagues. In fact, there is a very large number of people involved and who are working on this subject. We are very grateful to you.

Let me now try to answer the specific questions, and then deal with the general issues on which some response is appropriate. I should point out that many of the very thoughtful comments which were made do not, to my mind, require an individual and separate response from the Secretariat, if I may say so, because these were the considered and reflected views of the Member Nations. Those views were not only for the benefit of other members of the Council but were also addressed to the Secretariat to reflect on and to take into account in further pursuing this matter.



Starting with one of the last questions, the distinguished representative of Thailand enquired about the possibility of varying our practice when international expert candidatures for the post of Chief Technical Adviser are proposed to governments and whether we could not submit more than one name at a time as a possibility in order to speed up the process of the government's decision. My colleagues and I well appreciate that sometimes, as a matter of principle, a government considering different candidates would want to see a choice, would want to be given the possibility of a choice. There is, I am told, no absolute rule which prevents us from doing so. We have done so in certain cases. But let me point out two aspects of the difficulties involved. One is that, when FAO submits a candidature, it does so after verifying the interest and availability of the candidate concerned. If we do this systematically with a number of candidates, we shall soon run into the problem of having repeatedly to go back to them and say, "You were not selected after all, somebody else was". I think it is a practical operational problem which we have to bear in mind. Second is the cost aspect. It is fairly laborious work, reviewing rosters, selecting the most appropriate candidate, and all the other actions involved. I hope that the distinguished representative of Thailand, as other members, will understand why we pursue the particular practices that we do.

A specific question was raised, and comments made, about how the suggested arrangements would apply to arrangements for associate professional officers, APOs, projects subject to institutional arrangements and projects subject to arrangements with non-governmental organizations. The suggestions before you, as Mr Gotthainer also implied, did not focus on each individual aspect of these arrangements. In the light of your comments, the next paper that you will see, and that the Programme and Finance Committees will see, will specifically address these aspects.

A question was raised by the distinguished representative of Australia about the subsidy from the Regular Programme being reported to the Finance Committee. There are two aspects I would urge the Council to bear in mind. First of all, the intended Regular Programme subsidy is covered in the Programme of Work and Budget document itself, where there is a provision for Field Programme support under each of the technical and economic programmes of the budgetary Chapter 2. Then you have the post facto Cost Measurement System results, which are supplied to the Finance Committee on an annual basis.

But we realise that with the new UNDP successor arrangements there will be reporting of a more detailed nature on the subsidy to the UNDP and, by the same token, if we are to pursue these arrangements, I can well see that we will report on a comparable and more detailed basis on the subsidy to the Regular Programme, as well.

A specific question was raised by the Netherlands and France about the possibility of a trial period, with a review at the end. I think that is a very wise suggestion. I think this is the kind of issue to which we would give thought and which we would include in whatever proposals the Director-General wishes to submit in pursuance of your debate.

I think that any new arrangement would be well worth implementing on a trial basis to see what experience there is, what the problems are and what corrected measures may be necessary.

I will now deal with questions of a more general nature. There are basically three issues on which I should like to offer a few comments. Firstly, all the comments which related to the technical capacity of FAO: this really is the heart of the matter. It has been asked, why is there a Trust Fund programme at all? It has been asked, do bilateral donors, Trust Fund donors, consider which agency is the best to implement the projects which they wish to fund? It has been asked, do Trust Fund donors ensure that when they decide to turn to FAO with a proposed Trust Fund project, they do so in the areas of FAO's comparative advantage?

It has been suggested that, further to the arrangements of the UNDP with regard to programme and project technical level support, FAO enhances capacity to provide this support to developing countries. All this is very pertinent, but I would say that the technical capacity of the Organization, and questions of comparative advantage, lie very much in the policy decisions you make. If you provide resources on a sustainable and assured basis, you are providing the means to the Director-General to sustain the technical capacity of this Organization.

You have seen over a number of years how the difficulties created by delays and shortfall in contributions do affect the implementation and do affect the management of the Organization. These are ways in which the technical capacity of the Organization is damaged. However, you all want your Organization to be strong, to be technically capable, to be technically competent. This brings me to the question of comparative advantage.

Comparative advantage is, I submit, not something that can be measured merely in terms of constitutional mandate. The constitutional mandate gives the basis for the fields in which the Organization operates. It gives an indication of the roles that the Organization exercises. However, the comparative advantage is a judgement of capacity, is a judgement of quality which is intensely human. An organization can develop a comparative advantage as FAO has done in many fields, and all it takes is a few years of not using it, a few years of damage, and the comparative advantage shifts. It is very much in the hands of Member Nations themselves how they want to keep up the strength of this Organization. I am not being argumentative at all. I hope it is understood that I am only pointing out that this Organization has many comparative advantages which are seen from your own debates, which are seen from the way in which you support this Organization, which are seen from the way you want this Organization to have an extensive and substantial Field Programme. These are comparative advantages which belong to you and which are in your interest.

In this connection some comments have been made about whether the Field Programme affects adversely or whether it distorts Regular Programme priorities. You will recall personally, Mr Chairman, as will many delegates, that this was an issue which was very much debated by the independent experts in the FAO review. It was debated in the Programme and Finance Committees and by yourselves and the Conference. The judgement, if I recall, was that the Field Programme is not at variance with the Regular Programme. Why do extra-budgetary sources of funding turn to FAO? It is because of the substantive competence of the Organization, it is because of the comparative advantages which we have, it is because of the expertise that we have and the expertise, let us face it, is based on the priorities you set in the Programme of Work and Budget.

It is for these reasons that whatever we are asked to do - and let us bear in mind, we talk about UNDP and we talk about Trust Fund donors, but every project, whether undertaken by UNDP funding on Trust Fund donor funding, is at the request of the recipient government and is accepted on the terms proposed by the recipient government.

From this perspective, it is our experience that the priorities that are indicated in the Field Programme are very consistent with the priorities which you jointly, as Member Nations, set for the Regular Programme. The reason why we have an extra-budgetary funded programme - and if I may take one comment made by the distinguished Ambassador of France, why do we have a Field Programme which is extra-budgetary funded? It is because I do not think, unless I am very wrong, that Member Nations are ready to support a Regular Programme with a budget level of US\$1.4 billion for the biennium instead of the US\$676.9 million we have.

Returning from these comments, I now come to the conclusions and to the gist of my reply. If I have heard the debate correctly - and it is for you, Sir, to tell us so - we are very encouraged by the response you have given. As I said at the outset, the proposals were not submitted to you by the Director-General with the expectation or even an invitation to you to approve them today lock, stock and barrel. No. You have given the kinds of reaction which we sought from you and which we consider very precious in order to develop this proposal further. Over all the reaction has been, as my ears have registered it, a generally very positive one. If that is so confirmed by you, Mr Chairman, we in the Secretariat shall take encouragement from the reaction you have given to develop it further and to submit it to the Director-General for his consideration and for such action as he deems fit next year to the Programme and Finance Committee and to the Council.

**LE PRESIDENT:** De fait, comme M. Shah l'a indiqué, l'avis du Conseil était demandé au sujet de cet important problème pour lequel il est impossible d'obtenir rapidement une solution définitive. Le Directeur général voulait connaître les réactions des membres du Conseil afin d'étudier le problème d'une manière plus approfondie et de faire des propositions à la prochaine session du Conseil, en 1993, par le canal du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme.

Je voudrais aussi signaler que le délégué de la Libye nous a transmis le texte de son intervention qui, comme celle du représentant du Maroc, sera insérée dans le procès-verbal.

Incontestablement, ce sujet est important et vous me permettrez de faire quelques réflexions sur un domaine aussi important. Vous savez que l'Organisation a connu de graves difficultés financières, ces dernières années, à tel point que certains domaines d'activité du Programme ordinaire ont dû être pris en charge, en tout ou en partie, par les fonds fiduciaires. Et je remercie ceux qui sont intervenus dans divers programmes de la FAO de façon à permettre à l'Organisation de continuer à couvrir la totalité du champ de ses activités.

Je n'ai qu'une expérience limitée du monde mais j'ai quand même eu l'occasion d'avoir de nombreux contacts et de me rendre compte, au cours de tous les voyages que j'ai faits, du fait que les Programmes de terrain sont vraiment le sang et la vie de l'Organisation; que, sans ces Programmes de terrain,

nous deviendrions rapidement une sorte d'académie, un cercle d'études désincarné, sans prolongement. Comment peut-on imaginer être un centre d'aide à forte capacité de réponse dans des domaines techniques extrêmement complexes - que ce soit la télédétection, que ce soit la trypanosomiose animale, que ce soient les problèmes forestiers, que ce soient les problèmes nutritionnels -sans avoir une expérience concrète et pratique des opérations de terrain?

Tout le monde a exprimé le souhait que l'Organisation ait une capacité de réponse réellement valable. S'il n'y a pas de Programmes de terrain, ce serait exclu. Maintenant, doit-on demander davantage à ceux qui font déjà un effort supplémentaire alors qu'on devrait normalement souhaiter que ceux qui ne font pas d'efforts particuliers pour la vie de l'Organisation en fassent enfin et contribuent de manière plus substantielle à la vie de l'Organisation au moyen des Programmes de terrain?

Un certain nombre d'Etats Membres contribuent; d'autres contribuent peu; d'autres ne contribuent pas. Je n'ai certainement pas à apprécier la volonté politique des différents Etats mais je crois qu'il est important que nous soulignons quand même que, sans Programmes de terrain, il n'y a plus de FAO, car je ne vois pas très bien comment, demain, on pourrait envisager ce qui est souhaité par tous, à savoir rester la grande agence opérationnelle de la famille des Nations Unies dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, sans expérience concrète et pratique de terrain. Qu'il y ait des échecs, je le veux bien. On a fait un certain nombre de suggestions en parlant du Comité des Programmes de terrain. Je crois que c'est aussi aux bénéficiaires à faire entendre leur voix à propos des Programmes de terrain et d'être exigeants sur la qualité des experts. Mais pour avoir des experts bien formés et expérimentés, il faut que ceux-ci aient une large connaissance du terrain et qu'ils soient en contact avec les experts nationaux.

Je n'ai pas l'intention de prononcer un discours sur ce point parce que je crois que le sujet est loin d'être épuisé et que nous aurons encore l'occasion d'en discuter très longuement. Je voulais simplement souligner l'importance de tous les Programmes de terrain. Le Comité du Programme a déjà examiné correctement tout ce qui a été fait jusqu'à présent - la qualité des services, la capacité des experts - et je suis convaincu que nous poursuivrons ce dialogue de façon à trouver, tous ensemble, les formules les plus adéquates. Nous souhaitons tous la transparence, et je crois qu'elle est indispensable. La discussion qui a eu lieu dans cette enceinte est intéressante et importante; les Etats ont eu l'occasion de faire connaître leurs point de vue. Nous avons aussi entendu le représentant du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement. On a insisté sur la nécessité de la clarté, de la souplesse et de la limpidité. Il faut donc trouver des formules qui ne soient pas trop complexes et qui puissent être appliquées sans travail administratif démesuré.

Je voudrais tout spécialement remercier le Directeur général adjoint, M. Shah, pour son introduction qui a bien posé le problème sous toutes ses facettes, et ce problème devait être posé de façon complète. Demain, je suis convaincu que des propositions pourront être introduites qui ne donneront peut-être pas satisfaction de manière totale à tous, mais qui permettront de trouver une forme de compromis pour sauver ce qui est l'essentiel de notre Organisation. Le Programme ordinaire n'a pas beaucoup de sens s'il n'y a pas ses prolongements dans des réalisations. On parlait ce matin des plus pauvres, des démunis, des transferts de technologie: je crois qu'il n'est pas possible de les réaliser sans expérience de terrain, et l'efficacité du Programme

ordinaire, le rayonnement du Programme ordinaire, est fonction également de la qualité et de la dimension des Programmes de terrain.

Je vous remercie. Je crois que nous n'avons pas épuisé le sujet parce qu'il restera à l'ordre du jour pendant les mois qui viennent jusqu'à la prochaine réunion conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme en fonction de la prochaine réunion du Conseil. Puisque nous n'avons pas de décisions à prendre sinon à signaler que sera pris en compte l'avis de tous les Membres du Conseil, dans la perspective de la poursuite du dialogue nécessaire, le Directeur général pourra faire ses propositions suivant la procédure qui a été prévue.

Je proposerais maintenant de passer au point suivant de notre ordre du jour si vous n'avez plus de remarques à faire concernant le point 16.

Je considère clos le point 16 de l'ordre du jour.

17. Remuneration and Conditions of Service of Staff

17. Rémunérations et conditions d'emploi du personnel

17. Remuneración y condiciones de servicio del personal

**LE PRESIDENT:** Ce point, qui est soumis à notre appréciation pour information, est un point important. Les documents auxquels on se réfère sont le CL 102/4 et CL 102/17.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** In response to a request from the staff associations, the Director-General has agreed to ask the Council through you, Mr Chairman, to receive a statement presented by Ms Margaret Eldon, Secretary-General of the Union of General Service Staff, on behalf of the three staff associations. We would appreciate the opportunity for her to make a statement to the Council.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le Directeur général adjoint de sa proposition. Il a été demandé qu'une déclaration soit prononcée par un représentant des trois associations du personnel reconnues par l'Organisation lors de la discussion de ce point 17, vu l'importance du sujet. Vous vous rappellerez que cette question déjà été abordée à la Commission III lors de notre Conférence, il y a exactement un an, en novembre 1991.

Je propose de donner la parole à Mme Margaret Eldon, Secrétaire générale du Syndicat du personnel local et non local de la FAO, qui a été désignée par les trois associations pour intervenir en leur nom.

**Ms Margaret ELDON (Secretary-General, UGSS):** I should like to thank the Director-General for his permission to address you today and for his unstinting efforts to improve the conditions of service of the staff. It is an honour for me to give this declaration on behalf of the three staff associations, the Association of Professional Staff, the Field Staff Association and the Union of General Service Staff. In their name, Mr Chairman, I thank you for having accepted this intervention.

This time last year the personnel of FAO made a similar address to the Conference. The purpose of that address was to express concern with regard to the continuing deterioration of the conditions of service of the Professional and higher categories, and the negative impact this was having on the Organization's ability to recruit and maintain the level of competence required to carry out its programmes. At the same time, concern was expressed that similar threats were being directed toward the conditions of employment of the General Service category.

The Conference endorsed the view expressed by the Organization and supported by the staff representatives that it was essential that the Organization be able to recruit and retain high quality staff. It urged that the strong concern expressed be brought to the attention of the General Assembly and its Fifth Committee. What has been the result?

With regard to the Professional category, it has now been clearly demonstrated that the United Nations is an uncompetitive employer. A comparative study of the Professional salary and pension systems of the UN and other international organizations undertaken by the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations shows that salaries in other international organizations that compete for similar staff - that is, the European Community, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank - are from 30 percent to 41 percent higher for middle-graded Professionals.

In the case of pensions, a staff member in another international organization at a level equivalent to a P-4 can expect a pension over 26 percent higher than his UN counterpart. After 20 years of service the income replacement ratio, that is the ratio of the pension to the final salary, of a UN Professional pensioner, is only 38 percent. This compares to 58 percent in the World Bank.

Based on this technical study, which was officially submitted to the International Civil Service Commission in July 1992, FICSA urged the Commission to recommend to the General Assembly at its current session that the purchasing power lost by staff in the Professional and higher categories be restored. In its report, however, the Commission has concluded that: "Rather than being an uncompetitive employer, the common system was merely less competitive than the international organizations to which it was compared."

It has not, therefore, recommended any effective improvements.

For the Field Staff, in addition to inadequate salaries and pensions, their greatest worry this last year has been the visible shrinkage in the Field Programme as a result of reductions in donor support and changes in donor policy. Yet all around them they and the governments of the countries they serve see the need for technical assistance of the type that FAO is often best and most effective in delivering.

With regard to the General Service staff, this year the International Civil Service Commission has undertaken a review of the methodologies used to calculate General Service salaries and pensions. The Commission decided on several major amendments to the salary survey methodology that will have a noticeable negative impact on future General Service salaries in Rome.

Although General Service salaries should, according to the Flemming Principle approved by the General Assembly, be set according to the best prevailing rates in the locality, this in future will no longer be the case. Lower paying employers, previously omitted from the survey sample, will now be included. The 4 percent language competence factor established for two duty stations where the local language is not an official language of the United Nations - Rome and Vienna - will be eliminated.

Concerning the pensionable remuneration of General Service staff, the Commission decided to introduce, effective 1 January 1994, a new methodology for deriving pensionable remuneration from net salary by using lower staff assessment rate corresponding not to 100 percent of net salary, as it is at present, but to 56.25 percent of net salary - a significant difference. The effect on General Service pensions will be cumulative. An erosion of salaries will automatically result in reduced pensions. To this will be added the effect of using the lower staff assessment rate. It is anticipated that the impact of these two factors on General Service pensions will be considerable over a few years.

Considering that it is now recognized that the UN is an uncompetitive employer, and considering that the methodologies for General Service salaries and pensions have demonstrated their validity over the years and consequently did not require major changes, it is clear that the motivation behind these decisions is to keep down the cost to the UN of the remuneration packages of the staff.

No consideration is being given to quality of service and the ability of the specialized agencies to attract and retain the highly-qualified and motivated staff required to respond adequately to the needs of member countries.

Underlying this situation is a paradox. Several member countries are deeply concerned about the costs incurred in maintaining large UN agencies and the economic burden this places on their Governments at a time of economic recession. At the same time, member countries depend on the UN and on agencies like FAO for peacekeeping, crucial development assistance and emergency aid. If there is insufficient economic support to enable specialized agencies to respond to demands for assistance, it is not only the staff that will suffer but also the credibility of the specialized agencies concerned and the programmes of those nations requiring aid.

The strength of any organization lies in its capacity to secure the highest standards of efficiency and competence. Nowhere is this more imperative than in the United Nations where many of the specialized agencies are directly involved in saving, and promoting the quality of, life. When an agency's ability to attract and maintain staff of the highest calibre is undermined, so too is its capacity to deliver high-quality technical assistance to the programmes of member countries. As staff members leave, enticed by better prospects elsewhere, both the Organization and the Governments they serve, lose the benefit of their many years experience. Extra costs are incurred as new people have to be trained, and the rate of progress is slowed down due to the lack of continuity arising from the high turnover of personnel. Cost control measures made at the expense of the staff are unsound.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, today the situation is very grave. Within the Common System, sufficient serious consideration is not being given to the needs and concerns of the specialized agencies and their staff.

Believing that their participation in the process of consultation with the International Civil Service Commission is ineffective, the two federations of staff associations, FICSA and CCISUA, have withdrawn.

The ACC recently issued a statement to the General Assembly, once again drawing attention to the need to restore the competitiveness of the remuneration package of the professional and higher categories and not to erode that of the General Service. In his address to the Fifth Committee last week, the Secretary-General of the UN, supporting the ACC statement, drew attention to the fact that these issues needed to be given urgent attention and that decisions on them are inextricably linked to the creation of a strong, independent, international civil service.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we are sure that each of you has at heart the interests of the staff who represents the real capital of this Organization. The staff trust and rely on your help to bring to the attention of the General Assembly the seriousness of the situation in order that corrective measures with regard to the needs of this Organization and the conditions of employment of its staff may be taken.

In closing, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen we would like to stress that action is needed now. The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly has biennialized its work and, therefore, any unresolved problems will not be addressed for at least two years. Lack of concerted action at the common system level can only increase the need for alternative measures at the local level. Distinguished delegates, please give to the Organization and its staff the means to accomplish the tasks that have been entrusted to them.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your kind attention and for your kind consideration of the points we have raised.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank Mrs Eldon for her introduction to the problem of Remuneration and Conditions of Service of Staff. Before I give the floor to the Council for their reaction to this problem, I would like to give the floor to Mr Slater, Director of Personnel.

**A.T. SLATER (Director, Personnel Division):** The item before you, Item 17, Remuneration and Conditions of Service of Staff, there are two financial reports before you and each deal with this question. The first is that of the 73rd Session in May and the document is 102/4 (paragraph 2.60 to paragraph 2.74 refer). The second is that of the 74th Session of the Finance Committee in September and that is contained in document 102/17, (paragraphs 3.66 to 3.86 refer).

Both reports deal with the following topics: (1) the annual reports of the ICSC and the Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly; (2) changes in salaries and allowances; (3) progress report on status of remuneration.

As regards the first point the reports of the ICSC pension board, the May Finance Committee's report provides a summary of the ICSC recommendations to the General Assembly in 1991 and the Assembly's decisions thereon.



In the Finance Committee report in September, there is a summary in the recommendations of these two common system bodies which are currently before the present session of the General Assembly.

You will see from these reports that the Finance Committee noted these developments and expressed concern over the decision of the staff representatives to discontinue their attendance at the last session of the ICSC. The Committee requested (in paragraph 3.74 of document 102/17) that you give further study and considerations to these concerns.

On the issue of salaries and allowances, in both the May and September reports of the Finance Committee the evolution of Professional and General Service salaries and allowances for the period March 1991 to September 1992 are reported.

The Committee took note of these developments.

As regards the final item, progress reports on the status of remuneration, there are issues here which may require closer scrutiny on your part. This item refers to the critical situation in respect of remuneration of staff and its negative consequences. You will recall that at the 26th Session in November 1991 the Conference noted this situation with concern and urged that this concern be brought to the attention of the UN General Assembly.

It further requested that the status report be prepared for this session of the Council. That report is contained in paragraphs 3.78-3.86 of CL 102/17.

I must report with disappointment that, despite the strong concern expressed by the Conference and the continued perseverance and efforts of the Director-General in the various common system fora, the General Assembly and ICSC decisions on salary and pension matters have done very little to improve the conditions of service of staff.

No substantive positive changes are foreseen for the near future. In fact, the recommendations which the ICSC at its recent summer Session decided to submit to the General Assembly do not yet address the basic issue of the loss of competitiveness of the remuneration package granted to staff in the Professional and higher categories. Decisions were also taken at the same ICSC Session for implementation during the next cycle of salary surveys which will result in less favourable pensions and salaries of staff in the General Service category. Further, the General Assembly has biennialized its work programme with regard to personnel matters and therefore, after 1992, no consideration will normally be given to remuneration issues until 1994.

In light of these developments, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) issued a strong statement to present to the Session of the General Assembly currently under way, requesting that: "in considering salary and pension methodologies for the General Service category any modification should be technically sound and should not result in any erosion of current conditions". Specifically, it requested that the "ICSC recommendations on the methodology for determining pensionable remuneration be deferred until the results of using the new salary survey methodology are known." ACC also requested the General Assembly "to invite ICSC to pursue its examination of the competitiveness of the common system, and in particular that of staff in the professional and higher categories, by considering as a matter of urgency and for consideration by the General Assembly in 1993, an updated application

of the Noblemaire principle so that all relevant features of the highest paid civil service are taken into account, as well as remuneration levels offered by other international employers....".

It is to be hoped that the General Assembly response to the ACC's concerns will be positive. In the context of these developments the Director-General may also consider alternative measures which might be taken in FAO within the framework of the common system to improve the recruitment, retention and motivation of high quality staff. Your continued support of the Director-General in these matters is much appreciated.

If you require any further information, my staff and I are, Mr Chairman, at your disposal.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Comité de Finanzas examinó esos problemas de personal durante sus sesiones de mayo y de septiembre de 1992.

Quisiera entregar la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, Sr. Di Mottola.

**Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas):** Yo me alegro mucho, Sr. Presidente, de que el Director General haya acogido un voto que habla sido expresado en el Comité de Finanzas durante las sesiones a las que usted aludió, de invitar a un representante de las tres asociaciones del personal para exponer la situación del personal, que me parece extremadamente preocupante.

Le aseguro, Sr. Presidente, que las disposiciones, especialmente las más recientes, adoptadas por la CAPI, presentan condiciones que suscitan mucha preocupación. Estas condiciones han sido estudiadas ya por el Director de Personal, que ha explicado muy bien varios de sus aspectos. Se ha reflexionado sobre las pensiones, que es algo que siempre preocupa a los que trabajan, y no es justo que sus perspectivas hayan ido disminuyendo.

Quiero exponer sólo un ejemplo para no adelantarme al examen que de estos problemas van a hacer los señores delegados, y es que ha sido eliminado un factor que reconoce el conocimiento de los idiomas. Esto favorecería al personal que estaba en Roma, ya que el personal que está en Roma tiene que conocer, además de su lengua, algún otro idioma más. Por el contrario en cualquier otra agencia de Naciones Unidas que no esté ubicada en Roma o en Viena, necesita conocer un sólo idioma, ya que las agencias situadas, por ejemplo, en Francia, tienen una lengua oficial que es el francés. Igualmente sucede con las agencias situadas en Nueva York que sólo necesitan el inglés. Sin embargo, el personal que está en Roma tiene que conocer además de su propio idioma el francés y el inglés.

Considero, Sr. Presidente, que sería justo reconocer el esfuerzo de toda una vida, un esfuerzo de cultura y una capacidad más que tiene el personal que está en Roma frente al que está en otros lugares.

Creo, por lo tanto, que el Consejo deberla estudiar muy cuidadosamente el problema y recomendar a la CAPI que tenga en cuenta este deterioro de las condiciones del personal de las agencias de Naciones Unidas.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais savoir qui demande la parole. Je ne vois que le Chili et le Royaume-Uni qui souhaitent intervenir.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Chile):** Me mueve a intervenir en este tema tres aspectos, señor Presidente. El primero, la lectura de los documentos que tenemos a la vista; el segundo, el informe que hemos escuchado de la Secretaria General de la Unión del Personal a nombre de las tres asociaciones del personal y, en tercer lugar, lo dicho por el distinguido Director del Personal.

Las tres son coincidentes, tanto los documentos como las intervenciones, en que la situación es delicada, y hay evidentes muestras de deterioro y pueden producirse consecuencias para el personal que trabaja en la FAO. De extremadas consecuencias negativas. Esto, además, me lleva a recordar que durante la Conferencia última, en la Comisión III, que tuve el honor de presidir, estudiamos los temas, se llegó a la conclusión de que estaba produciéndose una situación delicada y que deterioraba las remuneraciones y demás beneficios del personal, y escuchamos también en esa oportunidad a los representantes de las asociaciones del personal. Se comprueba que la situación no ha variado y que, al contrario, hay elementos que nos permiten pensar que puede aún deteriorarse.

Por ejemplo, a pesar de la importancia que se le ha asignado al tema por el Director General y todo el personal que de él se ocupa, tenemos como un hecho la falta de competitividad, las modificaciones negativas, el ejemplo que recordaba el Embajador Di Mottola sobre los idiomas es elocuente, las pensiones se ven amenazadas, y me tocó y tuve el honor también de integrar dicho Comité, vi su labor, aprecié la enorme labor desarrollada y veo con preocupación que esto pueda deteriorarse aún más.

En consecuencia, mi delegación quisiera expresar esta preocupación y está dispuesta a apoyar las medidas que el Consejo determine en conjunto con lo sugerido y que hemos escuchado, para que las conversaciones se continúen y éstas gestiones prosperen.

Ha pasado ya un año y usted lo recordó muy bien, los temas se mantienen en deterioro y requieren por lo tanto de nuestra acción, la que estamos dispuestos a aportar.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I would like to make a statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

Perhaps I could begin by saying that I have listened very intently to the introductions by the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Director of Personnel Division. You can be assured that we have listened very carefully to what they have had to say.

We welcome the statement just made by the representative of the FAO Staff Associations. It is important in any organization, large or small, that the staff have a view on the organization and that they are able to express their view openly to the governing body of that organization. We, therefore, very much welcome the fact that the Staff Associations, at the suggestion of the Finance Committee, have been given the opportunity to ventilate their opinions and concerns to this Council this afternoon. We were very interested indeed

to hear what the representative of the Staff Associations had to say. Naturally, we will reflect very carefully on her comments and concerns.

Let me add briefly that we accept the need, of course, for staff remuneration to be set at a level which is sufficient to retain and motivate quality staff. This is a fundamental principle, given that the most important asset any organization has is its staff, its investment in human resources.

At the same time, the European Community and its Member States pays full regard to the importance of budget discipline within the United Nations. That is why we want to see the continuation of the UN Common System as the most appropriate means of ensuring budgetary control throughout the UN system, whilst at the same time recognizing and implementing the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission.

Finally, could I again reiterate our thanks to the representative of the Staff Associations for making known to us so eloquently and clearly this afternoon the concerns of all staff of FAO. You can rest assured that we will make sure these concerns are drawn to the attention of our Governments.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois qu'il serait utile de faire le point de la situation en ce sens que la Commission de la Fonction publique internationale a établi un rapport qui est actuellement soumis à la cinquième Commission - Monsieur le Directeur du personnel rectifiera si je me trompe -, laquelle sera appelée à présenter à l'Assemblée générale une proposition. Le Comité administratif de coordination a lancé un vibrant appel à tous les chefs d'agences pour attirer l'attention des Nations Unies sur l'importance du problème. Il appartient bien sûr à votre Conseil de déterminer sa position. Chacun des membres du Conseil peut intervenir auprès de ses représentants à New York pour les inciter à accorder à cette grave question tout l'intérêt qu'elle mérite. Cependant il est souhaitable que le Conseil se mette d'accord sur un texte qui pourrait être transmis, dans le cadre de la cinquième Commission, par le Conseil de la FAO, pour mettre l'accent sur ce délicat problème que connaît notre Organisation.

Notre Organisation a le devoir de se pencher sur le problème du personnel mais il est évidemment difficile à ce stade de se mettre d'accord sur un texte. Je proposerai donc de ne pas clôturer ce point, de prendre différents contacts et peut-être de créer un petit groupe composé de membres du Conseil qui pourraient, avec le Directeur du personnel, envisager la possibilité d'élaborer un texte, en accord avec le Secrétaire général du syndicat du personnel, local et non local, des Services généraux, de façon à ce que le Conseil puisse exprimer son point de vue à la cinquième Commission. Il ne s'agit là bien sûr, que d'une suggestion et je vais demander aux membres du Conseil de bien vouloir faire leur déclaration.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** I see the predicament you are in, because there are only three delegations which have taken the floor on this matter. I agree that one of the solutions could be the way that you have suggested. Another would be to simply endorse the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees regarding this matter, since this, I think, would reflect the view of the majority of the Council. This delegation would reiterate its endorsement of those reports showing the concern about the deterioration of

the salaries and pensions of staff members and the negative effect this would have on the efficiency of the Organization.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement M. Carandang de son intervention. Ce problème a déjà été longuement examiné il y a exactement un an par la troisième Commission de la Conférence plénière, et Mme Margaret Eldon a signalé que si une décision réglant le problème ne pouvait être prise maintenant, le problème risquait d'être reporté à deux ans. Il s'agit là d'un problème important et il est difficile de renvoyer la cinquième Commission aux procès-verbaux du Comité des finances de ces deux sessions. Il serait donc souhaitable de se mettre d'accord sur un texte.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Il vous souviendra que notre délégation a pris la parole sur ce point précis qui est l'objet de notre discussion, à la suite du Directeur général qui avait fait une déclaration à l'ouverture de nos travaux, déclaration très significative dans ce sens.

En tant que membre africain du Conseil, je voudrais exprimer notre inquiétude face à cette situation qui risque de perturber la bonne exécution des Programmes de terrain qui sont mis en oeuvre sur notre continent.

En second lieu, je voudrais exprimer notre soutien le plus ferme au personnel de la FAO qui, comme vous le savez, est très compétent et très dévoué à l'Organisation.

Je voudrais également appuyer toute démarche entreprise sur ce point par le Conseil. La suggestion que vous venez de faire, de nous mettre d'accord sur un texte retient mon attention; elle revêt un caractère d'urgence et je pense que tout ce que nous pouvons faire ici en direction de la cinquième Commission et en direction de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies ne peut être que bénéfique.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** In the course of our discussions of Council matters, I have been most vociferous in my interventions regarding the support we require from this Organization in the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in our respective countries. We look forward to the continued support of the technical, professional and scientific staff of FAO in this regard. Like my colleague from Côte d'Ivoire, we look at the introduction of this agenda item with the implications it will have for development in our countries. We will support anything positive which the Council can do to get the message across to where it ought to go about the extent of our concern at the impact that matters related to the inadequacy of the remuneration system for professional and higher categories of staff are likely to have on development in our countries. We therefore support the view of Côte d'Ivoire on this particular item and would wish the Council to take note of this view and send the message to where it is most required in this regard.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois qu'il n'y a plus de membres du Conseil qui désire prendre la parole.

La meilleure façon de procéder serait sans doute de préparer un premier projet qui serait soumis à l'avis du Conseil et qui pourrait donc, dans un premier temps, être examiné soit par le Comité de rédaction, soit par un petit groupe formé au sein du Conseil et représentant les différents groupes dans ce même Conseil, de façon à ce que nous puissions demain, en fin de journée, après avoir épuisé l'ordre du jour, tel qu'il est prévu, nous mettre d'accord sur un texte.

Cette solution d'un avant-projet de texte soumis au Conseil permettrait à ses membres d'y réfléchir, notamment dans la journée de demain, ce qui leur donnerait la possibilité d'apporter certains amendements. Le Conseil pourrait ainsi se prononcer en fin de séance, demain après-midi.

Cette suggestion obtient-elle l'agrément du Conseil ou y a-t-il d'autres propositions?

Votre silence est éloquent. Je considère donc que la proposition que je viens de faire rencontre l'accord de l'ensemble des membres du Conseil. Je vous en remercie.

It was so decided.

Il en sera ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

Nous ne concluons pas sur le point 17. Je vous signale que le Comité de rédaction se réunira à la Salle du Mexique immédiatement après notre session et que demain notre ordre du jour permettra d'examiner dès 9 h 30 les points 18 et 19 et également d'entamer le point 20. C'est un point important qui retiendra certainement l'attention des membres du Conseil et dont nous poursuivrons l'examen durant l'après-midi. Lorsque nous aurons terminé ce point 20 nous reviendrons au point 17. Le Maroc demande la parole.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Tout d'abord une petite remarque avant d'en arriver à la question que je souhaitais poser.

Vous proposez de changer de calendrier, puisque vous pensez déjà qu'au cours de la matinée nous pourrions aborder le point 20, alors qu'hier vous aviez dit qu'il n'était pas question de toucher au calendrier tel que prévu. Ceci n'est pas important.

Plus important est le fait suivant: vous avez parlé d'un groupe qui préparerait une résolution - il faut appeler les choses par leur nom - qui serait portée à l'attention du Conseil demain en concertation avec le Directeur du personnel et les représentants du personnel. Mais comment voyez-vous la composition de ce groupe? Si ce groupe doit élaborer un avant-projet il doit le faire ce soir ou demain matin. Je le répète, comment envisagez-vous l'organisation de tout cela?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais faire remarquer à M. Sinaceur que je ne change pas le calendrier. J'ai sous les yeux le programme du mercredi 18 novembre avec deux thèmes pour le matin qui risquent de ne pas remplir notre séance. Je vous demande simplement si le point 20 qui est un point important, peut être entamé

dans le courant de la matinée si nous en avons terminé avec les points 18 et 19.

Je vous ferai remarquer que ce matin, après avoir examiné le rapport du PAM, et après avoir entendu son Directeur exécutif, nous avons entamé le point du coût de soutien en fin de matinée et cela a été très utile.

El Presidente del Comité de Finanzas podría quizás hacer una sugerencia a propósito del grupo que podría estudiar ese proyecto de texto.

**Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas) :** Sí Sr. Presidente es lo que yo quería hacer, por eso me he permitido pedir el uso de la palabra. Yo pienso que el grupo debería ser nombrado por usted ahora y ser aprobado o modificado por el Consejo. Según yo lo veo podría estar integrado por los señores delegados que han intervenido sobre ese tema, porque significa que son los más interesados. Un texto podría ser preparado por uno de ellos, tal vez el Sr. Embajador de Chile podría redactarlo. Lo digo simplemente porque me gustan más los textos redactados inicialmente en español, pero si fuera en inglés sería lo mismo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su sugerencia tan eficaz. Creo que el Sr. Fernández Illanes que fue Presidente de la Comisión III, que es actualmente Presidente del CACJ podría quizás encargarse de unos contactos entre los miembros del Consejo y en relación con Ms. Margaret Eldon podría organizar una pequeña reunión después de la sesión de hoy día o bien mañana por la mañana a las 9.00. No se lo que usted está pensando, pero usted conoce muy bien la materia. Estoy seguro de que el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas está dispuesto a ayudarle.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Chile):** Me siento muy honrado con su propuesta. Gracias. Espero contar con la ayuda del distinguido Embajador Di Mottola. Unicamente quisiera explicar que mañana debo presentar ante este Consejo lo relativo a los temas que usted mencionó y tendré que estar aquí. Buscaré el momento oportuno, pero se hará en el curso del día de mañana.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchísimas gracias por su proposición. Gracias a usted creo que hemos visto todo lo de hoy día.

Je remercie les délégués pour leur participation active aux importantes questions que nous avons traitées aujourd'hui, notamment le rapport du PAM, la question des coûts de soutien des fonds fiduciaires de la FAO. Nous avons fait un tour d'horizon des problèmes du personnel, que nous reverrons demain. Il est important que nous arrivions à un accord. Le Conseil est l'organe habilité à envoyer des messages à la Cinquième Commission pour attirer son attention sur l'importance des problèmes spécifiques du personnel de la FAO.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas.







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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 102/PV/15

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

15ª SESION PLENARIA

(18 November 1992)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

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

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

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

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 18. First Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1992-93 Biennium
- 18. Premier rapport sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées pendant l'exercice 1992-93
- 18. Primer informe sobre las reuniones no previstas y las reuniones canceladas en el bienio 1992-93

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare ouverte la quinzième séance plénière du Conseil. Je vais donner la parole au Directeur général adjoint, M. Shah, qui va présenter le premier rapport sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées pendant l'exercice 1992-93.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, as you have pointed out, this item is a report essentially for the information of the Council. The Director-General submits it once a year.

There are three points which it may interest the Council to note. First, I must indicate that in addition to the sessions which are listed in this document, through an oversight for which I apologize, there was one meeting which is not listed. That was one of the preparatory meetings for the International Conference on Nutrition. Delegates will have noted that there were a number of sub-regional consultations in preparation for the ICN, and under Sub-programme 2.1.6.7 you will see that there was a meeting, for example, in Cairo, another one in Mexico City and another one in Dakar. There was a similar meeting for Eastern and Central Europe which was held in Bratislava from 1-3 April. The estimated direct cost - just so that you can compare it with the others - was US\$10 000.

The second point is to compare how these lists of unscheduled and cancelled sessions compare with the past, which is always interesting. I would point out that the number of unscheduled sessions, 23, and the number of cancelled sessions, 17, are both much smaller numbers than in the past. In previous biennia, for unscheduled sessions we have had 45, 32 and 43; for cancelled sessions we have had over 100 and 84, and now it is 17.

The third point which I should like to submit to the Council is that the Programme and Finance Committees have agreed with the suggestion we made that in the future the information which is submitted to you in this document would be covered in the Programme Implementation Report which you and the Conference will receive. We think this is a little rationalization which is helpful to Member Nations and is more economical in our work.

With these comments I submit the matter for your consideration.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank Mr Shah for the information he has just given to us.

De fait, parmi les réunions hors programme approuvées, nous trouvons un bon nombre de réunions préparatoires pour la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition ainsi que quatre réunions concernant le Plan d'action forestier tropical, réunions qui ont eu lieu à Rome.

Si aucun membre n'a de questions à poser à ce sujet, nous allons en terminer avec le point 18 de l'ordre du jour.

19. Revised Calendar of 1992-93 Sessions of the Council and of Those Bodies which Report to the Council
19. Calendrier révisé des sessions de 1992-93 du Conseil et des organes qui lui font rapport
19. Calendario revisado para 1992-93 de los periodos de sesiones del Consejo y de los órganos que le rinden informes

**LE PRESIDENT:** Ce point est traité dans le document CL 102/14: Calendrier révisé des sessions du Conseil et des organes qui lui font rapport. Ce document a deux colonnes. Dans l'une d'elles sont indiquées les réunions qui ont eu lieu en 1992. Il ne s'agit peut-être que d'un constat mais il est intéressant pour vous d'avoir la liste des réunions du Conseil et des organes qui font rapport au Conseil qui se sont déroulées en 1992.

En ce qui concerne les réunions prévues pour 1993, qui figurent dans l'autre colonne, vous voyez qu'il y a une réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier prévue pour fin janvier afin d'examiner la première épreuve du Programme de travail et budget de 1994-95.

Il y a ensuite toutes les réunions du Comité des forêts, du Comité des pêches, du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, du Comité de l'agriculture, du Sous-Comité des projets du PAM, du CPA ainsi que du Conseil et de la Conférence.

Il va de soi que ce document vous est soumis pour information et qu'il vous sera utile pour planifier les activités de ceux qui suivent de près la FAO, soit ici, à Rome, soit dans leur capitale.

Y a-t-il des commentaires au sujet du document CL 102/14?

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** As already hinted at by my delegation last year, we would like to suggest a little modification in the title to this document, saying Revised Calendar of 1992-93 Sessions of the Conference, the Council and of those bodies, etc., because, logically, the Conference is the supreme body of the Organization. Thank you.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que vous avez raison le titre n'est pas une décision en ce qui concerne les dates de projet de calendrier. La Conférence qui est prévue du 6 au 25 novembre est l'organe suprême auquel se réfère le document.

La remarque de l'Allemagne est totalement justifiée et à l'avenir il faudra veiller à ce que l'intitulé du document suive la suggestion qui vient d'être faite par le représentant de l'Allemagne.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** In quickly looking at the schedule for 1993 we have no major difficulties but we note that the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, which are presently scheduled for January 28th and 29th, which is only a two-day period of meeting, which we consider vitally important, our recollection is that this is a shorter timeframe than we have had in the past. We would hope that a meeting which sets in motion programme priorities and a budget level for the next biennium might be expanded if there were need to have that for an extra day or two.

One other thing we have observed is that the Committee on Food Security is still scheduled for an entire week and, as you will recall, we endorsed the CFS report last week and part of what that report says is that consideration be given to shortening this meeting. We would, therefore, hope that if the situation arises that the CFS meeting in 1993 could be less than a week, that that be considered as recommended by the CFS at its 1992 session.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le très honorable délégué des Etats-Unis de sa suggestion à propos de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. Il appartient aux membres des comités de fixer leur ordre du jour et éventuellement de prolonger la session s'ils l'estiment nécessaire. Ils peuvent décider de passer de deux jours à trois jours ou de trois à quatre jours. Les deux présidents, le Dr Bommer et Son Excellence M. Di Mottola resteront en contact permanent. Je pense que si le débat devait prendre plus d'ampleur, personne ne s'y opposerait. La possibilité existe donc de prolonger la réunion du 30 au 31 janvier et éventuellement jusqu'au 1er février. Les comités auront tout le temps nécessaire pour examiner le premier schéma du programme de travail et de budget.

En ce qui concerne le Comité de sécurité alimentaire, il pourrait se dérouler sur cinq ou même sept jours en mars. Il appartient aux membres de ce Comité d'élaborer leur calendrier de travail. Il est évident que si l'on parvient à faire en trois ou quatre jours le travail prévu pour une semaine ce serait une réelle économie pour la FAO.

Nous prendrons acte du souhait émis par le très honorable représentant des Etats-Unis.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Le Maroc est membre du Comité financier. C'est d'ailleurs notre première participation pour cette année et nous n'avons pas encore eu l'occasion de nous réunir en session conjointe au mois de janvier. Nous savons que cette question a déjà été discutée par les membres du Comité financier. En effet, le sujet qui sera abordé au cours de cette session conjointe est très important et je pense que la remarque du délégué des Etats-Unis est très pertinente.

Vous avez dit, Monsieur le Président, que nos débats pourraient être prolongés si nécessaire, mais, cette réunion tombant un jeudi et un vendredi, nous sera-t-il possible de travailler un samedi et un dimanche?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous pouvons travailler la nuit le samedi et le dimanche, cela ne pose aucun problème! M. Tedesco est prêt à prévoir une équipe de nuit pour la traduction. Vous pourrez vous reposer avant pour mieux assurer la tâche qui vous attend.

Y a-t-il d'autres remarques?

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Je ne voulais pas formuler d'observation sur la question mais puisque le représentant des Etats-Unis et le délégué du Maroc sont intervenus, je me permettrai également de faire remarquer que nous avions souhaité antérieurement que la réunion du Comité financier ait lieu le mercredi et non pas le jeudi afin de prévoir une prolongation éventuelle.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je passe la parole à M. Shah qui va répondre en tenant compte des possibilités de la FAO.

**V.K. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, I come in on the debate only to try to be helpful in view of the remarks which have been made. Firstly, as you yourself pointed out, Sir, the Secretariat is really in the hands of the Committees and the requirements of the Programme and Finance Committees. We just make arrangements to work longer for an extra day, or half a day, or whatever is necessary. So let there be no problem made of this issue.

Secondly, Sir, about whether it is a Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday of the week, may I point out that these dates are like all the other days, they are suggested as provisional dates. But for each of these bodies the Director-General consults the two Chairmen of the Committees, in fixing the precise dates and, of course, all members will be informed of those in good time. With that explanation, Mr Chairman, I hope the distinguished delegates who have spoken will be satisfied.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci M. Shah pour votre déclaration. Il va de soi que les Présidents des deux Comités peuvent les convoquer comme ils l'entendent; ils ont un large pouvoir étant entendu qu'ils doivent respecter le règlement de ces deux Comités.

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** For clarification, may we therefore take it as given that in the discussions with the Chairmen of the two respective committees the Director-General will consider the possibility of bringing the session forward to Tuesday?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que le Directeur général prend toujours en compte les souhaits du Conseil en fonction des possibilités des deux Présidents.

Il est difficile de trancher sur ce point en l'absence du Dr Bommer qui nous a quitté ce matin et du Président du Comité financier. Je ne doute pas que le Secrétariat se mettra en rapport avec les deux Présidents afin de trouver la meilleure solution en retenant toutes les suggestions faites par les honorables membres du Conseil. J'ajoute que les Présidents des deux Comités sont très soucieux de respecter les convenances de leurs membres.

Y a-t-il d'autres remarques au sujet de ce point de l'ordre du jour? Il n'y en a pas.

Compte tenu des observations qui viennent d'être faites par les membres du Conseil, du souhait émis par l'Allemagne d'une modification de l'intitulé, des remarques formulées concernant la prochaine réunion conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, je considère que le calendrier dérivé des sessions est adopté. La proposition est approuvée, s'il n'y a pas d'objection, il en sera ainsi.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

20. Reports of the Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

20. Rapports des cinquante-huitième et cinquante-neuvième sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

20. Informes de los periodos de sesiones 58 y 59 del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

20.1 Terms of Reference of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

20.1 Mandat du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

20.1 Mandato del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous vous souviendrez qu'hier j'avais proposé, au cas où les deux premiers points de l'ordre du jour pouvaient être traités rapidement, que nous abordions le point 20. Le Conseil avait marqué son accord sur cette proposition.

Nous abordons donc le point 20 qui est un point particulièrement important puisqu'il contient sept sous-rubriques. Il se réfère au rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques en ses 58ème et 59ème sessions; nous nous référons aux documents CL 102/5 et CL 102/15.

Je vais demander au Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques de nous rejoindre pour nous présenter les activités du Comité dont le travail a été particulièrement efficace tout en suivant les traces du Comité précédent que présidait l'Ambassadeur Poulides.

Nous allons commencer par le point 20.1 que nous devons au Président sortant, l'ambassadeur de Chypre: Mandat du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Je vais demander à l'actuel Président, le Dr. Samuel Fernandez Illanes de présenter ce point puis je me permettrai de reprendre la parole car je voudrais rappeler le contexte de l'intervention du Président, l'Ambassadeur Poulides, qui a lancé le débat de façon tout à fait remarquable au cours de la Conférence et je voudrais insister sur l'importance de la tâche du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques à l'instar de celle des deux autres comités, importance qui ne peut que prendre de l'ampleur dans les années qui viennent.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos):** Distinguidos delegados, corresponde en este momento presentar el Informe de los periodos de sesiones 58 y 59 del Comité de Asuntos

Constitucionales y Jurídicos, que están contenidos en los documentos CL 102/5 y CL 102/15.

Quisiera en primer término referirme a algo interno dentro del Comité, pero que ha sido de gran importancia. Lamentablemente dos importantísimos miembros del Comité, el Embajador Warin de Francia y el Embajador Don Nanjira de Kenya, debieron abandonar dichas funciones para asumir otras, que sus respectivos Gobiernos les han asignado.

Quisiera reconocer una vez más la labor extraordinaria que ellos tuvieron dentro de los debates del Comité. Asimismo, permítame una especial mención a usted, distinguido Presidente, porque en todo momento nos acompañó dentro del Comité y estuvo presente en sus sesiones, y, además, contamos con su valioso aporte. Destacar una vez más la labor fructífera y extraordinaria cumplida por el Dr. Moore y su equipo que ayudó decisivamente en las labores del Comité.

Respecto al mandato del Comité y al tema 20.1, la Conferencia en su 26° período de sesiones de noviembre de 1991, como los señores delegados podrán recordar, pidió al Director General que presentara al CACJ el examen del mandato del Comité para su estudio y posible debate en un futuro período de sesiones del Consejo. La Conferencia tomó esta medida a la luz de un debate preliminar sostenido en el 57 a período de sesiones del CACJ, en octubre de 1991 y del debate subsiguiente en el 100 período de sesiones del Consejo celebrado en noviembre de 1991. Correspondió como usted lo indicaba, señor Presidente, en estas discusiones un papel destacadísimo al Presidente del Comité en su momento, el Embajador Poulides de Chipre, quién tomó la iniciativa para el análisis de estas importantes materias que atañen a la competencia misma del Comité.

Al analizar el CACJ en la materia, tuve en cuenta, en particular, la evolución de sus trabajos desde que se creó en 1957, así como el mandato de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

En su examen, el CACJ centró su atención en tres esferas principales:

La primera, sus responsabilidades estatutarias de carácter continuo, adelantándose la opinión general del Comité, que tal vez no sería apropiado por su labor de carácter dinámico.

La segunda, la facultad de formular recomendaciones, que aunque implícitas, requerían de una mayor precisión.

En tercer término, la posibilidad de remitir al CACJ otras cuestiones pertinentes, no enumeradas expresamente en su mandato.

El Comité hizo varias sugerencias para la enmienda del artículo XXXIV del Reglamento General de nuestra Organización, donde se establece el mandato del Comité. Tales enmiendas no tienen por objeto cambiar la naturaleza del Comité, sino más bien permitirle prestar un mayor servicio a la Organización, teniendo en cuenta el incremento del número e importancia de las materias y cuestiones remitidas al Comité. Las enmiendas aparecen expuestas en el párrafo 12 del Informe del 58 período de sesiones del Comité, documento CL 102/5 que ustedes tienen a la vista y trata de los tres temas siguientes:

1. Debería definirse más claramente la competencia del Comité con respecto a las prerrogativas e inmunidades. Letras A y B del párrafo 12 del documento citado.

2. Se introduciría una disposición general, en virtud de la cual el Consejo o el Director General podrían remitir al CACJ asuntos que requieran su examen, aunque no estén enumerados expresamente en el mandato. Letra C del párrafo 12 de documento citado.

3. El CACJ estaría autorizado para formular recomendaciones y emitir dictámenes consultivos, según proceda, sobre los asuntos que le remitan el Consejo o el Director General. Letra D, párrafo 12 del documento citado.

Si el Consejo está de acuerdo con las enmiendas propuestas, podría remitirlas a la Conferencia en su 27 período de sesiones de noviembre de 1993, ya que es, como ustedes saben, la Conferencia quien tiene la facultad de enmendar el Reglamento General de la Organización.

De esta manera, distinguido Sr. Presidente, es la presentación que por mi parte corresponde para el tema 20.1, relativo al mandato del CACJ.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchísimas gracias, Sr. Presidente del CACJ por su introducción.

Je voudrais reprendre ce qui a été dit en ce qui concerne le travail effectué, notamment par le précédent Président, M. Fotis Poulides, Ambassadeur de Chypre. Je voudrais une fois de plus souligner tout le mérite qu'il a eu, la claire vision qu'il a exposée, avec beaucoup de talent comme toujours, du mandat de cet important Comité. Et je voudrais, si je n'abuse pas de sa traditionnelle modestie, lui passer la parole.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus):** Chairman, distinguished Members of the Council, I am very honoured and deeply moved by the tribute which the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters has paid to me as former Chairman. But, in all honesty, that tribute must be shared with the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Gian Luigi Valenza and the other Members of the Committee, all of whom played an active and constructive role in our work.

In the course of the four years in which I presided over the CCLM, the Committee was called upon to deal with a very broad range of subjects, some of which were extremely complex and of paramount importance for the Organization. On several occasions, the Committee felt that it was somewhat constrained by its very terms of reference. In effect, we should often have liked to be in a position to take some initiative in our proposals, but, unlike the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, we were not authorized to do so.

It became clear to us that the work of the CCLM had evolved very much since its terms of reference were first adopted in 1957, thus some 35 years ago. This is not really surprising because FAO itself has evolved greatly and the scope of its activities and the nature of its work have been constantly adapted to meet the growing requirements of food and agriculture in the world.



As a result, there has been a corresponding change in both the nature and the depth of the matters which the Committee is called upon to review. A certain degree of flexibility and initiative would seem to be essential if the Committee is to be in a position in future to discharge fully its responsibilities.

The CCLM gave careful consideration to the matter at its Fifty-eighth Session, under the extremely able chairmanship of Mr Samuel Fernandez Illanes. The proposals which have now been submitted for the consideration of the Council are not intended to bring about a radical transformation of the nature and objectives of the CCLM but, rather, to provide a broadening of its mandate in order to allow the Committee to serve still better the Organization and its Members.

I should like to commend to the Council the adoption of these proposals as being a real contribution to the future work of the Organization.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Poulides de son intervention.

Nous sommes saisis d'une proposition précise en ce qui concerne la révision du mandat du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. La proposition se trouve sous la rubrique IV du document CL 102/5, qui est le rapport de la cinquante-huitième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Les propositions juridiques doivent bien sûr être adoptées par la Conférence, mais nous avons à émettre nos avis et considérations en tant que Conseil sur les propositions faites, de façon à pouvoir les transmettre à l'instance responsable, en l'occurrence la Conférence.

Je déclare ouvert le débat sur ce point et je demanderai aux membres du Conseil qui désirent s'inscrire de le faire. Je vois le Congo, le Maroc, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, l'Australie. La liste n'est pas close. Si des observateurs désirent s'inscrire, ils devraient me le faire savoir dès maintenant.

Je donne la parole au représentant du Maroc en attirant son attention sur le fait que nous discutons de la révision du mandat du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Comme vous l'avez précisé, Monsieur le Président, nous discutons de la révision du mandat du CQCJ et c'est bien sur ce point que j'interviens.

Tout d'abord, nous voulons rendre hommage au travail qui a été réalisé par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques sous la conduite de son Président, notre ami, M. Samuel Fernandes Illanes.

De prime abord, j'aimerais dire que nous acceptons tout à fait les amendements et modifications qui nous sont proposées sur le fond. J'aurai simplement quelques remarques à faire quant à la forme, si vous le permettez.

S'agissant du point C du paragraphe 12 du document, lorsque l'on parle de l'insertion d'une clause générale entre les actuels paragraphes 3 et 4 du

Règlement général, j'aimerais savoir pourquoi dans la version française il est dit: "le Comité peut aussi examiner les aspects juridiques. Nous avons considéré que le Comité examine les questions qui lui sont soumises par le Conseil. Donc nous avons pensé qu'il fallait peut-être dire: "le Comité examine les aspects juridiques et constitutionnels de toute autre question qui lui est soumise par le Conseil ou par le Directeur général". J'aimerais avoir l'avis du Conseiller juridique parce que cette formulation peut laisser entendre que le CQCJ n'examine pas toutes les questions qui lui sont soumises. C'est peut-être la formulation de la version française qui est en cause, mais comme c'est placé dans le texte du Règlement général cela peut prêter à équivoque.

D'autre part, dans le Règlement général, quand il s'agit du mandat du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, nous remarquons par exemple que pour le Comité du Programme à l'article XXVI.7(e) du Règlement général il est dit: "étudier toutes autres questions qui lui sont soumises par le Conseil ou par le Directeur général". Cela figure à la suite des différents mandats du Comité lui-même. Donc je ne vois pas l'intérêt d'avoir un nouveau paragraphe, alors que cette question peut venir à la suite des différents mandats du CQCJ, comme cela apparaît pour le Comité du Programme à l'article XXVI.7(e) où cela vient à la suite des mandats du Comité du Programme.

J'aimerais comprendre pourquoi on a insisté pour avoir un paragraphe distinct, pourquoi on n'a pas ajouté ce mandat particulier à la suite des autres mandats du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Je voudrais faire une remarque sur le paragraphe D de l'article XXXIV du Règlement général où il est question de l'adjonction d'un nouveau paragraphe: "quand il examine les questions qui lui sont soumises... le Comité peut, le cas échéant, formuler des recommandations et adresser des avis".

Dans le document, on a essayé de répondre à la question de savoir pourquoi il fallait préciser que le Comité pouvait formuler des recommandations et adresser des avis. Mais nous pensons que cela fait partie du mandat d'un comité, lorsqu'il doit examiner une question qui lui vient du Conseil, qui est l'organe directeur, il doit formuler des avis et recommandations. J'aimerais que l'on m'indique pourquoi il faut apporter cette précision.

Si l'on revient à l'article XXXIV actuel, le point 3: "le Comité se réunit pour examiner des questions déterminées qui lui sont soumises par le Conseil ou le Directeur général et qui peuvent intéresser les domaines suivants...". S'agissant du mandat du Comité financier tel qu'il apparaît au paragraphe 7 de l'article XXVII, on ne précise pas le mandat. On dit que "le Comité financier aide le Conseil à exercer son contrôle sur la gestion financière de l'Organisation. Il est chargé en particulier des questions suivantes...". Cela sous-entend qu'il peut être chargé d'autres fonctions.

C'est pour cette raison que dans la réponse que le Conseiller juridique apportera, j'aimerais que l'on précise pourquoi on n'a pas modifié simplement le début du paragraphe 3, sans toucher le mandat, en disant: "le Comité se réunit pour examiner les questions qui lui sont soumises par le Conseil et le Directeur général, et en particulier la liste des mandats et la liste des fonctions telles qu'elles apparaissent...".

Je ne désire pas remettre en cause le travail, puisque, d'entrée de jeu, j'ai dit que nous étions d'accord sur le fond, mais il y a une question de forme. Faut-il présenter la chose de la manière qui nous est proposée, c'est-à-dire ajouter un nouveau paragraphe, ou simplement ajouter un alinéa aux paragraphes A, B, C et D actuels et modifier le début du paragraphe 3 pour le rendre plus général.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci au Maroc pour son intervention très juridique et précise, à laquelle il sera répondu de manière exhaustive.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Nous voulons aussi saisir cette occasion pour féliciter M. Illanes de son élection à la présidence du CQCJ, et nous lui souhaitons la bienvenue en cette qualité au sein du Conseil. Nous le remercions pour l'exposé introductif qu'il nous a fait.

En second lieu, nous voudrions dire que nous sommes entièrement d'accord sur le libellé du paragraphe 4 du rapport du CQCJ, tel qu'il se trouve dans le document CL 102/5.

En ce qui concerne l'hommage rendu à juste titre à M. Poulides, Ambassadeur de Chypre, que nous avons côtoyé au sein de cette Organisation depuis bientôt une décennie, nous nous associons à ce qui est dit dans le paragraphe 4 pour dire que tout au long de son mandat il a su avec compétence, autorité et dévouement, et également compréhension, s'acquitter de la tâche qui était la sienne à la présidence de cet important Comité qu'est le CQCJ.

Comme l'ont dit aussi bien l'ancien et le nouveau Président, l'Organisation elle-même est en train de se mettre à jour, et depuis l'Examen de l'Organisation nous ne pouvons pas tellement nous plaindre. Du point de vue des textes, la FAO a fait le toilettage nécessaire et il n'est que juste que les organes qui servent cette Organisation puissent à leur tour se mettre à jour. C'est dans cet esprit que nous considérons normal qu'à l'instar des autres comités, le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme, il soit nécessaire de revoir le mandat du CQCJ pour lui permettre d'accomplir, avec plus d'efficacité, les tâches qui sont les siennes et donner des avis. Cela veut dire que sur le principe de la révision du mandat la proposition faite ici a notre plein appui.

Mon ami du Maroc, qui est intervenu avant moi, a fait en quelque sorte des remarques d'ordre technique. Il est bien placé pour le faire, d'autant plus qu'en ce moment il siège au sein d'un comité important de notre Organisation. Pour notre part, nous n'avons pas l'intention d'entrer dans les détails. Bien sûr, nous suivrons avec tout l'intérêt voulu les réponses que le Conseil juridique voudra bien nous donner. Mais d'ores et déjà nous pouvons dire qu'effectivement le libellé des différentes propositions mériterait d'être revu pour les rendre plus cohérentes, comparativement au mandat des autres comités. Il s'agit de lui donner une plus grande portée et de ne pas rédiger des textes qui laissent supposer que malgré tout l'ouverture n'est pas aussi totale que nous l'aurions souhaitée.

L'exposé introductif a été court et nous ne pouvons pas aller plus loin que la matière dont nous traitons, puisque sur ce point nous avons un texte d'à peine deux pages et demie. En terminant, nous voudrions dire que nous appuyons le principe de la révision du mandat du CQCJ. On a dit que l'approbation de

ces différentes propositions est de la compétence de la Conférence. Au stade actuel nous pouvons nous prononcer sur le principe pour que nous puissions arriver à la meilleur mouture possible du texte pour que le CQCJ puisse combler le vide juridique que nous constatons actuellement et soit mis en état de pouvoir remplir pleinement ses obligations.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** I should like to register our support for the item as drafted on the terms of reference for the CCLM and I should like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairman and welcome our new Chairman of the CCLM.

I shall have longer remarks on another subject on this agenda item.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Si j'ai bien compris il n'y a pas d'autres observations sur le point qui nous est soumis et qui concerne le mandat du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques c'est-à-dire le point 20.1. Si vous avez d'autres observations sur ce point, il faut les faire maintenant.

Je donne la parole à l'observateur du Sénégal, qui fut un membre éminent de ce Comité.

**Sidaty AIDARA (Observateur du Sénégal):** Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de votre aimable compliment. J'ai été un membre tout court du CQCJ et c'est en cette qualité que je souhaite prendre la parole. Bien que n'étant qu'observateur, je suis très attentivement, comme je le disais il y a quelques jours, les travaux du Conseil. J'ai bien sûr attendu que le Conseil se soit exprimé sur cette question pour prendre la parole. En tout cas, je ne vais pas retarder les travaux du Conseil.

Je voudrais simplement, en ma qualité d'ex-membre du CQCJ - parce que j'ai rempli deux mandats consécutifs à ce Comité - rendre hommage au Président sortant, l'Ambassadeur Poulides, qui non seulement a dirigé avec brio, talent et compétence les travaux du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques mais a attiré l'attention de ce dernier sur l'opportunité de revoir le mandat du Comité. Je crois qu'au-delà de tout ce qu'il a fait, c'est là la contribution la plus importante du Président Poulides. Je voudrais donc, au nom de ma délégation, lui rendre un hommage tout à fait mérité.

Puisque l'occasion m'en est offerte, je voudrais également adresser toutes mes félicitations au nouveau président M. Samuel Fernandez Illanes, représentant du Chili, parce que je sais qu'il dirige avec beaucoup de talent les travaux du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Je crois que ce qui a mis la puce à l'oreille du Conseil, c'est l'examen que nous avons eu, au sein du CQCJ, de la possibilité pour un certain nombre d'organisations d'intégration économique régionale d'adhérer à la FAO. Nous nous sommes rendu compte au cours de ce débat passionnant, il faut le reconnaître, de toutes les faiblesses du Comité. Il fallait justement avoir la perspicacité de quelques-uns, comme l'Ambassadeur Poulides, pour se rendre compte qu'effectivement il fallait revoir et renforcer le mandat du Comité.

En fait, le CQCJ s'est posé la question de savoir s'il était habilité à formuler des recommandations ou à émettre des avis sur les aspects juridiques et constitutionnels des questions qu'il examinait sans y avoir été au préalable expressément invité, soit par le Directeur général, soit par le Conseil. C'est le premier écueil que nous avons rencontré.

Le deuxième écueil, c'était de savoir si le CQCJ avait la possibilité d'examiner les aspects juridiques et constitutionnels de toutes autres questions qui pourraient lui être soumises même si cela ne figurait pas expressément dans son mandat.

Le débat sur ces deux questions a abouti à la constatation que, compte tenu de l'importance croissante que prenait le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques il fallait lui donner la possibilité de renforcer son mandat; et les amendements qui sont proposés aujourd'hui au Conseil s'inscrivent en droite ligne dans cet objectif. C'est la raison pour laquelle ayant eu une petite expérience au sein du CQCJ, je me permets d'apporter ma contribution à ce débat et l'appui de ma délégation à ces amendements qui ne feront que renforcer le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, qui va avoir beaucoup de pain sur la planche à l'avenir parce que nous avons admis une OIER à la FAO mais, qui sait, demain, il y en aura d'autres et il faut déjà baliser le chemin qui va vers l'élargissement de la compétence du CQCJ.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement l'observateur du Sénégal de son intervention. Sa présence au CQCJ a été très active au cours de ses deux mandats. Si ce Comité avait certaines faiblesses, celles-ci ont été très largement compensées par la force et la compétence de ses membres.

Si aucun autre observateur ne souhaite intervenir sur ce point, je vais donner la parole au Conseiller juridique pour répondre aux questions du Représentant du Royaume du Maroc.

**CHAIRMAN:** I now give the floor to the Legal Counsel in order to answer the Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I shall respond to the questions of the distinguished delegate of Morocco to the best of my ability.

Firstly, I should state that the reason why the amendments were structured in the way they are was because of the difference in the structure of the provisions in the General Rules of the Organization dealing with the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee on the one hand, and the provisions dealing with the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters on the other hand. You will note that in the General Rules dealing with the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee there is a list of functions with which the Finance Committee are supposed to deal. Some of those are matters which are referred to them and some are matters which they have on their agenda, as it were, as a standard item in each of the sessions of the Finance Committee and Programme Committee; and some of them they can take up on their own initiative.

On the other hand, the structure of the provisions relating to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters is slightly different. The Committee is empowered under paragraph 3 of Rule XXXIII.4 to consider specific items referred to it by the Council or the Director-General only: to consider specific items which arise out of - and then there is a list of subjects, not of functions but a list of subjects which the Director-General, or the Council may refer to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. Therefore, the structure of the two provisions is really rather different.

This leads to the second point which was, why do we have this catch-all phrase and why do we have it as a separate paragraph? I think it follows from the above that we wish to say that there may be other matters that are not included in this particular list of problems which maybe the Council or the Director-General may wish to refer to the CCLM. On a number of occasions in discussion in the CCLM the question has been raised by members, "but is this included on the list here, can we really consider it?" We wanted to make it quite clear, the Committee wanted to make it quite clear, that any legal and constitutional matters which are referred to the Committee should be considered by the Committee or may be considered by the Committee. This is why the Committee wanted to have a catch-all phrase to say that this list is not exhaustive. It can consider other matters as well, so long as they are referred to the Committee by the Director-General or by the Council, and as long as they are matters of a legal or constitutional nature.

Coming to the next point, I do not think there is any particular difficulty in using the word "may". The word "may", certainly in English, connotes empowering. That is what the Committee wished: they wished to be empowered to consider any other matters referred to it by the Council or the Director-General. You will note that elsewhere in the provisions also the words "can adopt" (peut adopter), also exist. It is a matter of empowering the Committee to consider these matters.

The final point is, whether the Committee could have done it in a different way, whether it could have amended the introduction, the preamble to paragraph 3, and could have restructured it completely along the lines of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee, and included a list of functions rather than a list of problems. Yes, the Committee could have done it this way, but it would have entailed a much more radical amendment, I believe, of the General Rules of the Organization. I understand the Committee did not think it was necessary to have a radical amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Committee, but merely to touch up a few points that were not fully covered.

I trust that answers your question, the distinguished delegate of Morocco.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le Conseiller juridique de la réponse qu'il vient de fournir. En espagnol, on dit: "podrá examinar".

Je vais donner la parole au représentant du Maroc qui va nous dire s'il est satisfait des explications fournies.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** J'ai toujours eu de grandes discussions avec le Conseiller juridique, M. Moore, sur des aspects juridiques ou techniques, et je crois qu'il est toujours arrivé à me convaincre. Je suis

tout à fait d'accord avec la réponse qu'il a donnée mais je demande votre indulgence pour faire une observation.

A l'alinéa C du paragraphe 12 du document CL 102/5, il est dit que "le Comité peut aussi examiner les aspects juridiques et constitutionnels de toute autre question". J'aimerais préciser un peu ma pensée là-dessus. Lors de la réunion du Comité, les membres du Comité avaient considéré qu'il n'était peut-être pas nécessaire d'ajouter à son mandat les responsabilités statutaires similaires à celles du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme de manière à ne pas limiter son mandat. Comme cela, il peut examiner toutes les questions d'actualité qui lui sont transmises par le Conseil ou le Directeur général. Nous sommes donc d'accord là-dessus.

Mais en ce qui concerne les autres questions, pourquoi restreindre le champ, pourquoi parler uniquement des aspects juridiques et constitutionnels? On rétrécit un peu ainsi le mandat du Comité pour les questions qui ne figurent pas dans les alinéas du paragraphe 3 de l'article XXXIV. Pourquoi restreint-on le champ de l'examen des autres questions alors que le Comité lui-même a considéré que la nature de ses travaux était très changeante et qu'ils portaient généralement sur des questions d'actualité? Pourquoi ne dit-on pas, par exemple, "toute autre question qui lui serait transmise par le Directeur général ou le Conseil"?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais quand même rappeler que l'article XXXIV du Règlement général de l'Organisation régit le fonctionnement du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Or il y a des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques à propos de n'importe quelle matière. Le Comité a une compétence juridique et constitutionnelle mais il n'a de compétence ni en matière financière, ni en matière politique, ni en matière de programmes. Je crois que les comités doivent rester dans leur sphère de compétence respective. Si le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques examinait demain les implications financières d'un problème et faisait des recommandations d'ordre financier, cela ne serait de nature à satisfaire ni le Président ni les membres du Comité financier.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Mr Chairman, as always you have put it in better words than I could. Yes, certainly it is a Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and the Committee is always restricted to the constitutional and legal aspects of matters referred to it. Of course, the matters referred to it are already in the form of a legal question usually, but very often the CCLM gets referred to it matters which have already been referred to the Finance Committee (the Special Reserve Account is one example which will come up later today), and specifically the Finance Committee then takes a decision on the substance of the proposal. It is the CCLM that looks into the form and the legal and constitutional implications of those matters. I think this is a point where the Chairman and members of the CCLM have always been cognizant of their limitation to constitutional and legal matters. This was the reason why it was specifically requested that this should be reflected in the catchall phrase dealing with the referral of any other matters to the Committee, any other matters of a legal or a constitutional nature, or the legal and constitutional aspects of any other matters referred to it.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos).** Quisiera muy brevemente, Sr. Presidente, referirme al punto tan importante que ha elevado el distinguido delegado del Reino de Marruecos. La verdad es que no podría disentir de lo dicho por usted ni mucho menos de lo dicho por el Dr. Moore, simplemente hacer un alcance sobre que dentro del Comité en varias oportunidades se discutieron los temas con la más amplia gama de criterios. Naturalmente que nada impide que el Comité los considere y los debata, como se ha hecho; pero dado el mandato de los Textos Básicos, el informe que el Comité eleva y el aspecto concreto sobre el cual gira su competencia, es exclusivamente hacia el orden jurídico o constitucional. Vale decir, dentro del marco de los textos que rigen nuestra Organización. Ahora, naturalmente, la amplitud con que se están examinando estas materias, y la amplitud que se va a ir requiriendo dentro del Mandato del Comité, como ha quedado explicado, nos va a llevar a la consideración de un aspecto más amplio, y esa discusión se ha tenido y se va a continuar teniendo dentro del Comité; pero el Consejo y la Conferencia van a recibir de parte del Comité sólo el informe relativo a lo jurídico y a lo constitucional. Si hay otra materia que pueda agregarse podrá quedar en las actas del Comité, pero no va a ser vinculante respecto de las atribuciones del Comité y el informe que debe presentar.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Ce débat a été extrêmement utile et intéressant. Les questions posées ont permis de donner sur la proposition faite par le Comité tous les éclaircissements voulus.

Je rappelle la proposition qui a été faite au chapitre IV: Révision du mandat du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Il s'agit d'une modification de l'article XXXIV du Règlement général de l'Organisation. Les amendements à ce Règlement doivent être nécessairement adoptés par la Conférence, à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés. Le Conseil recommande donc à la Conférence d'adopter la proposition faite par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et nous transmettons à la Conférence le rapport de ce Comité de façon à ce que, suivant le Règlement général, elle puisse modifier, à la majorité des deux tiers, le mandat de ce Comité qui figure à l'article XXXIV du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

Il ne me reste qu'à remercier tous les intervenants avant de passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour.

20.2 Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

20.2 Accord portant création de la Commission des thons de l'océan Indien

20.2 Acuerdo para la Creación de la Comisión del Atún para el Océano Indico

- a) Report of the Conference for the Adoption of a Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (Rome, 22-26 June 1992) and Text of the Agreement as adopted
- a) Rapport de la Conférence pour l'adoption d'un projet d'accord portant création de la Commission des thons de l'océan Indien (Rome. 22-26 juin 1992) et texte de l'Accord adopté
- a) Informe de la Conferencia para la aprobación de un proyecto de Acuerdo para la Creación de la Comisión del Atún para el Océano Indico (Roma. 22-26 de junio de 1992) y texto aprobado del Acuerdo



- b) Article on Reservations
- b) Article sur les réserves émises
- b) Artículo sobre las Reservas

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons au point 20.2: Accord portant création de la Commission des thons de l'océan Indien qui, se subdivise en a) et b), a) étant le rapport de la Conférence pour l'adoption d'un projet d'accord portant création de la Commission des thons de l'océan Indien, conférence qui s'est tenue en juin 1992 et texte de l'Accord adopté et b) l'article sur les réserves émises.

Je signale que cet important projet d'accord a été examiné par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques en sa 58ème session, qu'un large débat a eu lieu, et qu'au cours de la 59ème session la discussion a été poursuivie et se trouve sous la rubrique 2. En conclusion de ces travaux, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a recommandé à la 102ème session du Conseil - notre session - de reporter à la 103ème session de juin 1993 l'examen portant sur l'approbation officielle de l'Accord.

Je vous suggère de relier les points a) et b) qui constituent, en fait, un seul et même point. Nous devons tenir compte du fait que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques n'a pas terminé ses travaux et nous recommande à nous Conseil d'attendre la 103ème session pour examiner plus profondément, sur la base des résultats de la 60ème session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, cette importante question.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos):** Como usted lo recordaba acertadamente, señor Presidente, el tema relativo al punto 20.2: Acuerdo para la Creación de la Comisión del Atún para el Océano Indico, abarcó los dos períodos de sesiones del Comité celebrados durante este año.

En el 58º período de sesiones de abril, se examinó el acuerdo para la creación de la Comisión del Atún para el Océano Indico que se iba a presentar a una Conferencia Técnica, que efectivamente se celebró del 22 al 26 de junio del presente año.

El Comité en esa oportunidad propuso algunas enmiendas al proyecto, y concluyó que el texto enmendado era jurídicamente correcto. No obstante, el Comité sugirió que sería útil que el texto que se iba a aprobar en la citada Conferencia volviera a remitirse al CACJ para su examen final.

Como usted lo recordaba también, durante el 59s período de sesiones del Comité del pasado mes de septiembre, el CACJ tomó nota de que la Conferencia Técnica había aprobado un texto revisado en el que se incorporaban modificaciones sustanciales al proyecto que había examinado el Comité en su período anterior. Asimismo, tomamos nota de que quedaban sin resolver dos problemas importantes. El primero, relacionado con el artículo propuesto sobre las Reservas que varios Estados Miembros participantes en la Conferencia consideraron anticuado debido a que no reflejaba la situación actual del derecho internacional público.

El segundo, era de carácter político, y se refería a la participación en la nueva comisión propuesta de dos Estados Miembros de la Comunidad Económica Europea en lo relacionado con sus territorios de ultramar, debido a que continuaba siendo objeto de controversia la condición jurídica de algunos de tales territorios.

En lo que respecta al problema de carácter político, el Comité reconoció que no podía ni debía resolverse en el marco de una organización técnica como la FAO, o en el contexto de un acuerdo técnico como el que se estaba examinando, sino que era más apropiado para ser tratado en el Foro de las Naciones Unidas. Tomó nota, asimismo, de que se estaban celebrando consultas con los miembros directamente interesados, con el fin de llegar a un acuerdo sobre una fórmula de transacción. Posiblemente el distinguido Dr. Moore más adelante podría informarnos del estado actual en que se encuentran dichas consultas.

En lo referente al artículo sobre las Reservas, el Comité tomó nota de que estaba en consonancia con las instrucciones aprobadas por la Conferencia de la FAO, en 1957. Dicho artículo exige la aceptación unánime de todas las partes contratantes para que una reserva propuesta pueda ser efectiva y se aplique entonces el principio jurídico de la indivisibilidad de los tratados. Recuerdo que estamos hablando de disposiciones de 1957. No obstante, el Comité estuvo de acuerdo en que dichas instrucciones no están ya en consonancia con la práctica seguida, actualmente con arreglo al derecho internacional público, que como todos ustedes conocen, acepta el principio de la divisibilidad de los tratados.

Por consiguiente, el Comité recomendó que se enmendara la Resolución 46/57 de la Conferencia para reflejar la situación actual del Derecho Internacional.

Al formular esta recomendación el Comité propuso un procedimiento para poder hacerlo. Los miembros del Consejo podrán examinar el procedimiento propuesto en el párrafo 14, v) y vi) del informe del 59º período de sesiones del CACJ.

El CACJ preparará una nueva cláusula para permitir reservas en las condiciones establecidas en la parte II, sección 2 de la Convención de Viena sobre el Derecho de los Tratados de 1969. Se presentará dicho texto al Consejo en su próximo período de sesiones de junio de 1993.

Teniendo en cuenta los dos problemas a que acabo de referirme, el CACJ recomendó que el Consejo, como usted decía, señor Presidente, aplazara la aprobación del acuerdo mismo hasta su 103 período de sesiones de junio de 1993, a reserva de que la Conferencia enmiende su Resolución 46/57 en lo que respecta a las reservas.

Si ustedes me permiten, desde un punto de vista personal, estimo que de esta manera se produciría una evolución armoniosa de estas normas dentro de la FAO, adecuándose al derecho internacional público actual, pero sin contradecir las disposiciones de la FAO hoy vigentes que requieren modificación en materia de reservas para todos los acuerdos o convenciones más allá del caso específico que nos ocupa, que es el Acuerdo para la Comisión del Atún en el Océano Índico.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le Président Samuel Fernandez Illanes pour sa présentation de l'ensemble du point 20.2.

Je pense qu'il serait intéressant maintenant d'avoir les réactions des membres du Conseil, mais auparavant je voudrais passer la parole à M. Moore.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** As requested, and in response to the Chairman of the CCLM, I would like to give some general information on the consultations which are taking place on the wording of Article 4 of the Draft Agreement regarding eligibility for membership in the Commission.

During the summer, Mr Chairman, I held consultations with the Governments of the United Kingdom, France and India. I shall be travelling next week to Mauritius, to hold further talks on the wording of a possible compromise formula. I would rather say no more on the substance of the matter at this point in order to give full scope to the consultations, the outcome of which will be reported to the CCLM Session in April 1993 and to the Council's Session, next June.

Mr Chairman, the CCLM has recommended that in view of the ongoing consultations on this matter the whole question of the formal adoption of the Agreement should be postponed until the June Session of the Council. The Council is being asked to endorse the recommendations of the CCLM, to postpone formal adoption of the Agreement, and also to endorse its recommendation on the procedure to be adopted regarding the reservations clause in the new Draft Agreement and the proposed revision of Part (R) of the Basic Texts defining the type of reservations clause which should be included in future Article XIV Agreements.

In view of this, Mr Chairman, there may be little reason for the Council to discuss the substance of the proposed new Agreements at this Session. Thank you.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre intervention.

Je dois dire que j'ai eu l'occasion de suivre les travaux du Comité et je tiens à féliciter les pays membres de ce Comité pour leur travail particulièrement approfondi sur ce point.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Australia supports the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. The establishment of the Commission will enable closer cooperation amongst all countries with an interest in expanding tuna fisheries of the region.

Australia welcomes the increased assertiveness of Indian Ocean countries in questions of management of resources within their exclusive economic zones and in high seas areas.

By persisting towards the establishment of a formal international management body for tuna fisheries of the Indian Ocean region, the FAO has helped to draw together the various fishing nations and coastal states which need to be involved in the development of sound management regimes for the region's tuna fisheries.

Australia will continue to play an active role in Indian Ocean fisheries management, in particular in respect to tuna.

On the question of reservations, I have not yet received advice from my capital on Australia's position regarding the reservation. I would, therefore, like to reserve our position on this matter at this time. Thank you.

**Saleh SADIQ OSMAN (Tanzania):** Mr Chairman, firstly allow me to thank the Chairman of CCLM, Mr Samuel Fernandez Illanes, as well as Mr Moore, for the general information they have given to us.

My delegation would like to make a brief intervention on matters pertaining to the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Our appreciation goes to the Technical Conference which was held in June of this year as well as to the Fifty-ninth Session of the CCLM which was held in September.

My delegation's concerns on these issues are as follows: firstly, the provision as worded in the proposed Article on reservations drafted on the basis of paragraph 10 of the Appendix to Conference Resolution 46/57 as amended by the Twenty-sixth Session of Conference in November 1991 which did not reflect the current status of public international law. It would be better appreciated if a provision was inserted which would correspond thereto. Secondly, in view of the above, my delegation recommends that action be taken by FAO to amend paragraph 10 of the principles and procedures, part (R) of the Basic Texts, to bring it into line with public international law on reservations as provided for in part II, Section II, of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties concluded in 1969. The text of the draft resolution incorporating a new provision on this matter could be discussed at the next session of the CCLM in 1993.

Thirdly, the will of sovereign Member States should be respected and that Member States should not be forced in their international relations to accept limitations deriving from concepts of public international law that had been clearly superseded. On the other hand, there is the principle that subsidiary organs of the Organization should not take action contrary to the precepts. Fourthly, there should be clear transparency on the involvement of two Member States of the EEC in respect of their overseas territories in addition to participation by the EEC itself, for example, the double voice in the new Commission.

My delegation, Mr Chairman, fully supports the recommendation by CCLM and stresses that (a) consultation should continue between the Secretariat and the parties concerned on the question of participation in the proposed new Commissions; (b) informal consultations should be held with other members represented at the Technical Conference to ensure that there are no other problems with the next text of the Agreement; (c) the outcome of both sets of consultations should be referred to the Committee at its 60th Session, (d) the Council should defer to the formal approval of the Agreement until its 103rd session in June 1993; (e) a draft amendment to Conference Resolution 46/57, part (R) of the basic text should be prepared for consideration by the Committee at its 60th Session for submission to this Council in June 1993 and transmitted to the Conference in November 1993 for adoption and; (f) a new clause on reservations should be included in the draft Agreement as recommended by the CCLM. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** D'autres pays désirent-ils intervenir sur ce point de l'ordre du jour?

S'il n'y a pas d'autres demandes d'intervention il me reste à souhaiter un travail fructueux au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui examinera ce point lors de sa prochaine session, point qui sera à nouveau soumis au Conseil lors de sa 103ème session de juin 1993.

Je remercie le délégué de l'Australie et le délégué de la Tanzanie de leurs interventions fort utiles pour le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Nous n'avons pas de décision à prendre en ce qui concerne ce point que je déclare clos.

20.3 Amendment of the FAO Financial Regulations to Incorporate the Provisions of Relevant Conference Resolutions Regarding the Special Reserve Account

20.3 Amendement tendant à incorporer dans le Règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le Compte de réserve spécial

20.3 Enmienda del Reglamento Financiero de la FAO para incorporar las disposiciones de las correspondientes resoluciones de la Conferencia relativas a la Cuenta Especial de Reserva

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous arrivons au point 20.3: Amendement tendant à incorporer dans le Règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le Compte de réserve spécial.

Je suis saisi d'une demande du Président du groupe africain, le Représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire, M. Daniel Yoman Konan, qui propose de déplacer ce point de l'ordre du jour à la séance de l'après-midi à 14 h 30. Je sou mets cette proposition à votre Conseil.

Etant entendu qu'il s'agit d'un point d'ordre juridique et que nous ne discutons pas l'existence du fonds qui fût crée en 1977, je me permettrai de faire une rétrospective historique de ce fonds créé à l'unanimité en 1977, qui correspond incontestablement à une nécessité. Ce point a été examiné longuement par le Comité des Finances et par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, mais compte tenu de la demande faite par l'Afrique je demanderai, si le Conseil est d'accord, de postposer jusqu'à 14h30 l'examen de ce point.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

20.4 Codex Alimentarius: Amendment of Relevant Texts to Take Account of the Membership in FAO of Regional Economic Integration Organizations: for information

20.4 Codex Alimentarius: Amendement des textes pertinents, destiné à tenir compte de l'adhésion à la FAO des organisations d'intégration économique régionale: pour information

20.4 Codex Alimentarius: Enmienda de los textos pertinentes para tener en cuenta la admisión como Miembros de la FAO de organizaciones regionales de integración económica: para información

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous examinerons maintenant le point 20.4: Codex Alimentarius: Amendement des textes pertinents, destiné à tenir compte de l'adhésion à la FAO des organisations d'intégration économique régionale. Ce point a été examiné avec beaucoup d'attention par le CQCJ et la discussion figure sous le point IV du document CL 102/15. Il s'agit d'une matière particulièrement importante et intéressante. Comme vous le savez tous, le Codex Alimentarius est patronné à la fois par la FAO et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé. La question de la participation de la CEE pose des problèmes juridiques.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos):** Gracias, una vez más, Sr. Presidente, por sus opiniones que nos han esclarecido el tema.

Efectivamente, se trata de un punto de notable importancia y que ha tenido una evolución en la medida en que, como todos ustedes conocen, a partir de la Conferencia pasada, la Comunidad Económica Europea ha ingresado en nuestra Organización. Se informó al CACJ que la cuestión de la admisión como miembros de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius, de Organizaciones Internacionales de Integración Económica que eran miembros de la FAO, había sido examinada por el Comité del Codex sobre Principios Generales en septiembre de 1992.

El CACJ recordó que la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius había sido establecida en 1962 como organismo conjunto de la FAO y la OMS, como bien lo recordaba el Sr. Presidente y que pueden ser miembros de ella todos los miembros de la FAO y la OMS que estén interesados en las normas alimentarias internacionales.

El CACJ observó también que se había remitido el asunto al Comité del Codex sobre Principios Generales, debido a que la Comunidad Económica Europea, como decíamos, había sido admitida como miembro de la FAO y había manifestado su interés en formar parte del Codex. No obstante, sería necesario enmendar el Manual de Procedimiento de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius para adaptar el texto a la participación de Organizaciones Miembros.

Durante la reunión del Comité del Codex sobre Principios Generales se habían planteado varias cuestiones fundamentales y se había decidido que se necesitarían nuevas consultas antes de poder adoptar una decisión sobre las enmiendas exactas que se necesitaban. En particular, resultaba que la Comunidad Económica Europea trataba de obtener una condición de miembro que podría diferir de la prevista en el Reglamento General de la FAO. El CACJ reconoció que se hallaba en juego una cuestión fundamental, pero consideró que no sería apropiado renegociar la condición de miembro de la Comunidad Económica Europea, ya que ésta había sido objeto y a todos nos consta, de muy largos debates por parte de los órganos competentes de la FAO cuando se prepararon las enmiendas, en su oportunidad, a la Constitución y al Reglamento General de la Organización.

En vista de las consideraciones antedichas y de que las consultas continúan, el Comité analizó este tema de manera preliminar, a la espera de proposiciones concretas. Asimismo, pidió al Director General que lo mantuviera informado.

Los miembros del Consejo podrán encontrar una sinopsis de lo sucedido en los párrafos 19 a 24 del informe del 59 período de sesiones del CACJ. Por el momento, se señala el asunto a la atención del Consejo a título de información.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. We note that the discussions of the Codex General Principles Committee meeting in September last showed that there is a number of issues involving procedural matters within the Codex Alimentarius Commission which need to be explored in greater depth before the necessary amendments to the Codex Procedural Manual for the Membership of Regional Economic Groupings can be agreed.

The European Community will seek a bilateral meeting with the Codex Secretariat which will be aimed at finding solutions to these issues.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your statement and that declaration in the name of members of the Community who are members of this Council.

Would any other members like to intervene on this matter?

S'il n'y a pas d'autres demandes d'intervention nous laisserons les discussions suivre leur cours et nous remercions le Président du CQCJ. Le Conseil sera informé ultérieurement à sa prochaine session de la situation concernant les amendements au manuel des procédures du Codex. C'est une procédure qui doit suivre son cours et votre Conseil sera tenu informé de l'évolution de cette procédure. S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques sur cette question nous passons au point suivant de l'ordre du jour.

20.5 Immunity of the Organization from Legal Process in Italy

20.5 Immunité juridique de l'Organisation en Italie

20.5 Inmunidad de jurisdicción de la Organización en Italia

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos):**

Recordará el Consejo que el informe sobre la situación planteada en este delicado asunto fue dado oportunamente por el distinguido Asesor Legal en la última Conferencia, oportunidad en que recalcó y señaló los aspectos negativos ocurridos y las acciones en curso.

El CACJ tomó nota de la sentencia dictada el 21 de noviembre de 1991 por el Tribunal Supremo de Italia, cuyo texto acababa de publicarse, en el cual el Tribunal había invertido las decisiones adoptadas precedentemente por tribunales inferiores, modificándolas y revirtiendo así la situación negativa de la que teníamos conocimiento.

Asimismo, se modificaba una sentencia anterior del mismo Tribunal Supremo y había mantenido plenamente la inmunidad de la Organización.

En particular, el Tribunal reconoció que la inmunidad de jurisdicción de la FAO en Italia se deriva de las disposiciones del artículo VIII, sección 16 del Acuerdo sobre la Sede. Este aspecto de primacía del Acuerdo sobre la Sede resulta el aspecto de mayor relevancia para la Organización, que me permito destacar. El Tribunal concluyó que la Organización es inmune de jurisdicción en Italia en lo que respecta a las controversias laborales entre la Organización y su personal.

El CACJ tomó nota, con gran satisfacción de la sentencia del Tribunal Supremo y expresó su profundo agradecimiento al Gobierno italiano por la asistencia prestada en este asunto. Asimismo, el Comité felicitó al Director General y al personal de la Oficina Jurídica por su éxito en defender los intereses de la Organización y sus Miembros, con los resultados altamente positivos que el Consejo tiene conocimiento desde este instante.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias también al Gobierno italiano y al Servicio Jurídico de nuestra Organización.

Ce point nous est soumis pour information. Est-ce que l'un ou l'autre membre du Conseil désire intervenir sur ce point?

Puisqu'il n'y a aucune demande d'intervention, il ne me reste qu'à remercier le Président du CQCJ de son exposé si clair et à remercier une fois de plus le Gouvernement italien de la position qui a été prise et qui est particulièrement importante pour notre Organisation.

20.6 Abolition of (a) Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Agrarian Structure and Farm Rationalization and (b) Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture and

20.6 Suppression a) du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE des structures agraires et de la rationalisation de exploitations b) du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE de la mécanisation agricole et

20.6 Supresión (a) del Grupo Mixto de Trabajo FAO/CEPE sobre estructura agraria y racionalización de la explotación rural v (b) del Grupo Mixto de Trabajo FAO/CEPE sobre mecanización de la agricultura y

20.7 Establishment of (a) Joint FAO/ECE (UN) Working Party on Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management and (b) Joint FAO/ECE (UN) Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment

20.7 Création a) du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE (ONU) sur l'analyse économique du secteur agro-alimentaire et la gestion des exploitations b) du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE sur les relations entre l'agriculture et l'environnement

20.7 Establecimiento (a) del Grupo Mixto de Trabajo FAO/CEPE sobre economía del sector agroalimentario v gestión de explotaciones y (b) del Grupo Mixto de Trabajo FAO/CEPE sobre relaciones entre la agricultura v el medio ambiente

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons au point suivant, qui est le point 20.6: Suppression a) du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE des structures agraires et de la rationalisation des exploitations b) du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE de la mécanisation agricole.

Je me permettrai de faire une petite remarque. Quand on parle d'un groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE il serait utile de faire remarquer - et cela a été dit à Prague lors de la Conférence Régionale Europe - qu'il s'agit en l'espèce de la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies. Le vœu a été émis que quand on parlait de CEE en ce sens on mette CEE-ONU, de façon à éviter une confusion entre la Commission économique pour l'Europe et la Communauté économique européenne. A l'avenir, quand on parlera d'un Groupe de travail mixte FAO-CEE, on ajoutera entre parenthèses Organisation des Nations Unies.



Cette proposition de la suppression du groupe de travail mixte FAO-CEE pourrait être liée au point 20.7 qui parle de la création a) du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE sur les aspects économiques du secteur agro-industriel et la gestion des exploitations b) du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE sur les relations entre l'agriculture et l'environnement. Les deux questions sont étroitement liées et pour faciliter le travail je proposerai que nous unissions le point 20.6 et le point 20.7 de façon à ce qu'il y ait une seule et même discussion, comme cela fut fait lors de la discussion au CQCJ.

S'il n'y a pas d'observations, les points 20.6 et 20.7 seront discutés ensemble.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos):** Como usted lo mencionara acertadamente, Sr. Presidente, son dos temas que fueron tratados de manera rápida por el Comité sin mayores controversias ni problemas de ninguna especie. Se trata simplemente de sustituir disposiciones que debían ser sustituidas y que están remarcadas en el documento CL 102/15, de sus párrafos 29 en adelante.

Realmente, Sr. Presidente, es poco lo que yo podría agregar a la documentación que tienen ustedes a la vista y sería innecesario abundar más en el tema, ya que se explica por sí misma la supresión del Grupo Mixto de Trabajo FAO/CEPE y a su vez el establecimiento del Grupo Mixto de Trabajo en el otro sector agroindustrial.

Con su venia, Sr. Presidente, creo que sería simplemente una materia absolutamente sencilla que no requiere más explicación que la que usted ha dado y la que he podido decir yo en estas pocas palabras.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Ce point de l'ordre du jour est soumis aux membres du Conseil. Nous avons eu l'occasion d'examiner le rapport de la cinquante-neuvième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et, au chapitre VI de ce document, vous trouverez le débat qui s'est tenu et qui a débouché sur un projet de résolution qui devrait être soumis par le Conseil à la Conférence, projet de résolution visant à la création des groupes évoqués et à la dissolution des groupes évoqués. Dans l'annexe A au projet de résolution figure le mandat du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE de l'analyse économique du secteur agro-alimentaire et de la gestion des exploitations; et dans l'annexe B figure le mandat du Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE des relations entre l'agriculture et l'environnement. Je pense que cela permet d'actualiser les activités de ce Groupe de travail mixte FAO/CEE/ONU.

Les membres du Conseil ont-ils des observations à faire au sujet de ce point de l'ordre du jour?

**Walter VON DEN DRIESCH (Germany):** The German delegation welcomes and encourages recent developments aimed at bringing closer together the tasks and efforts of the Geneva-based ECE and the Rome-based FAO-related working groups dealing with European agro-economic questions, a fact which is symbolically expressed by establishing those groups as Joint Working Parties. Germany decisively supports the joining of the Working Parties as an adequate means to ensure better use of human and budgetary resources and to avoid overlaps. For further action Germany favours in principle, in addition to Joint Working

Parties, joint sessions of their superior bodies respectively, i.e., the FAO European Commission on Agriculture, based in Rome, and the ECE Committee on Agriculture, based in Geneva, alternating at their respective seats.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il appartient au Conseil d'adopter le projet de résolution qui se trouve à l'Appendice II du document CL 102/15, projet de résolution comprenant deux annexes - Annexe A et Annexe B - qui fixent les mandats des groupes de travail nouvellement créés. S'il n'y pas d'autre intervention, je vais considérer que le Conseil adopte ce projet de résolution.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il nous reste à organiser le travail de la prochaine séance. Nous reprendrons l'examen du point 20.3: Amendement tendant à incorporer dans le Règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le Compte de réserve spécial. Nous poursuivrons ensuite l'examen du point 17 de l'ordre du jour, relatif à la rémunération et aux conditions d'emploi du personnel, que nous avons commencé hier.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** Sometimes our delegation is a little optimistic. It could be that this afternoon we shall speed up our business and it might be possible to include on the Agenda Item 21. Or will that cause too many problems?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je suis entre les mains du Conseil. Nous avons décidé d'éviter de déroger au calendrier provisoire. La séance de demain matin est également une séance importante, qui doit être préparée. Avant de faire une proposition, je vais donner la parole au représentant des Philippines.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** I am more optimistic than the Netherlands and was wondering whether you would be willing to consider this afternoon, if time permits, not only item 21 but also Items 22 and 23?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vois que M. Carandang ne propose pas d'adopter le rapport cet après-midi!

Je propose de laisser les points ouverts. Nous verrons où nous en sommes cet après-midi. Il appartiendra au Conseil de décider d'examiner ces autres points de l'ordre du jour. Je ne voudrais pas qu'un membre du Conseil absent pour le moment puisse nous reprocher de ne pas suivre le calendrier établi.

The meeting rose at 11.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 h 45.

Se levanta le sesión a las 11.45 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 102/PV/16

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
16<sup>a</sup> SESION PLENARIA  
(18 November 1992)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30

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

Se abre la 16<sup>a</sup> sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas

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

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)
- 20. Reports of the Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (continued)
- 20. Rapports des cinquante-huitième et cinquante-neuvième sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (suite)
- 20. Informes de los periodos de sesiones 58 y 59 del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (continuación)
- 20.3 Amendment of the FAO Financial Regulations to Incorporate the Provisions of Relevant Conference Resolutions Regarding the Special Reserve Account (continued)
- 20.3 Amendement tendant à incorporer dans le Règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le Compte de réserve spécial (suite)
- 20.3 Enmienda del Reglamento Financiero de la FAO para incorporar las disposiciones de las correspondientes resoluciones de la Conferencia relativas a la Cuenta Especial de Reserva (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare ouverte la seizième séance plénière de notre Conseil.

Nous allons reprendre avec le point 20.3 qui avait été réservé: Amendement tendant à incorporer dans le Règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le Compte de réserve spécial.

Puis-je faire remarquer aux membres du Conseil que cette question a fait l'objet de divers examens à la fois du Comité financier et du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Le Comité financier, lors de sa soixante-quatorzième session, qui s'est tenue en septembre de cette année, a procédé à une étude très approfondie des divers mécanismes visant à protéger le Programme de travail et budget contre les variations des taux de change. A ce sujet, je me réfère au document CL 102/17 en ses paragraphes 3.55 et 3.56.

Le Comité financier a également étudié avec beaucoup d'attention un amendement tendant à incorporer dans le Règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le Compte de réserve spécial et visant à retracer l'historique de ce compte de réserve dont on a beaucoup parlé et qui a le mérite d'exister depuis que la Résolution 27 de la Conférence a été adoptée à l'unanimité en 1977.

**Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas):** Me he permitido, Sr. Presidente, pedirle el uso de la palabra porque las pocas palabras que voy a decir van a ser prácticamente un complemento y van a consistir en completar lo que ha sido el Informe del Comité de Finanzas que he tenido el honor de presentar hace unos pocos días, por tanto, lo he pedido sólo para esto.

Aquí no se trata de establecer algo de fondo, porque la resolución del Fondo sobre la existencia del Fondo Especial de Reserva ha sido determinada por tres resoluciones de la Conferencia que han sido establecidas, y se adelantó formular la fecha de la primera resolución que es la 27/77 de 1977. Sin embargo, el Fondo se estableció aun habiendo sido establecido en esta fecha, en 1979.

Posteriormente hubo dos resoluciones de la Conferencia, la 18/81 y la 17/89, con estas resoluciones se completó la función del Fondo porque se había visto que el Fondo podía ser utilizado, y ha sido utilizado, no sólo para equilibrar los desequilibrios en los cambios entre el dólar y la lira, sino para alimentar el Fondo General cuando fuera insuficiente el Fondo de Operaciones.

Lo que se hizo con estas tres resoluciones ha sido importantísimo para la vida de la FAO. En los documentos que ustedes tienen a la vista se pone en evidencia muy clara que si no hubiese existido el Fondo Especial de Reserva alimentando el Fondo General, la FAO habría tenido que disminuir sus programas hasta que se encontrase en una crisis extremadamente grave para no hacer frente a sus obligaciones.

Quisiera poner de relieve, porque esto es muy importante para el debate que va a seguir, que el Fondo Especial de Reserva, las reglas que crean el Fondo Especial de Reserva, que determinan su composición y su funcionamiento, son parte de la reglamentación vigente, o sea, aun sino están incluidas en los libros donde están reunidos todos los textos básicos, es una reglamentación que existe y que es obligatoria para todos los Estados Miembros.

Las dos tareas del Fondo Especial de Reserva, que ya me he referido brevemente a ellas, son: una, la de enfrentar los problemas que derivan de las variaciones positivas o negativas en el tipo de cambio entre la lira y el dólar, en el momento en que la lira cuesta menos naturalmente se puede con el dólar comprar más liras, y, por tanto, se da una ventaja a los Estados Miembros, a la Administración y a la FAO misma. En la situación del Fondo Especial de Reserva, estarían primero las Reservas que se hubiesen recibido en este momento de variación positiva.

Además, uno puede enfrentar la situación, como hizo la Organización muy atinadamente, mediante la compra anticipada de liras. Por lo tanto en la FAO, hoy día, existe un mecanismo para enfrentar una gran parte de los problemas que pueden presentarse, no sólo por variaciones en las cifras de cambio, sino también para infiltrar parcialmente los incumplimientos por parte de algunos Estados Miembros. Si no hubiésemos tenido incumplimientos debido, naturalmente, a razones de fuerza mayor y sobre esto no tenemos ninguna duda, pero si no hubiésemos tenido el Fondo Especial de Reserva, la FAO no hubiese podido sobrevivir.

La razón por la cual hoy se piensa transferir el texto de las resoluciones del Fondo Especial de Reserva a los Textos Básicos, es dar a todos los que trabajan alrededor de problemas financieros, ya sean los Estados Miembros, las Cancillerías de los Estados Miembros, el Auditor Externo y las mismas oficinas de la FAO, un texto único y no encontrar esta parte de la Reglamentación Financiera sin resoluciones de Conferencias que ya han pasado.

Entonces, el problema es únicamente si el Comité está de acuerdo o no en trasladar este texto, que introduce únicamente resoluciones de la Conferencia, que ya son obligatorias, a los Textos Básicos.

El texto que ustedes tienen a la vista ha sido elaborado, discutido y enmendado en el Comité de Finanzas, por decirlo más claramente en las instancias financieras, conforme al mecanismo de funcionamiento de la FAO y ha sido después revisado en su parte jurídica por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Lo que tienen ustedes que hacer es examinar este texto, pero de acuerdo con los informes que ustedes han visto, este texto ha sido reconocido como jurídicamente válido, también por países que cuando se creó el Fondo Especial de Reserva no estaban de acuerdo en crearlo. Sin embargo, el texto, como se les presenta a ustedes ha sido, por su carácter jurídico, absolutamente impecable, ha sido juzgado impecable y ha sido después aceptado en su totalidad por el Comité de Finanzas.

A estas alturas, si la Secretaría no quiere agregar otras explicaciones, ustedes tendrían que expresar sus opiniones al respecto.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchísimas gracias, Sr. Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por su introducción tan completa. Como usted sabe muy bien, en mi presencia hemos discutido mucho de esto en el Comité de Finanzas y se discutió también todo el aspecto jurídico durante la sesión del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Me refiero al documento CL 102/15 en la tercera parte.

"Amendement tendant à incorporer dans le règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le Compte de réserve spécial".

Teniendo en cuenta el trabajo que se hizo durante el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, quisiera, si ustedes están de acuerdo, entregar la palabra al distinguido Dr. Illanes, Presidente de ese Comité.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos):**

Le agradezco a usted sus comentarios, y asimismo los comentarios hechos por el distinguido Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, que ha dejado claro ante ustedes los asuntos relativos al tema discutidos por ese Comité.

Me corresponde presentar ante ustedes la forma en que fue analizado por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

Se presentó a nuestro Comité una propuesta de enmienda del Reglamento Financiero de la Organización, para incluir las disposiciones relativas a la Cuenta Especial de Reserva. El Comité tomó nota de que la Cuenta Especial de Reserva había sido establecida por primera vez hace unos quince años y se había formulado su mandato en una serie de resoluciones de la Conferencia. Observó asimismo que el Comité de Finanzas, como ha sido dicho, en su 74 período de sesiones de septiembre de 1992, había considerado apropiado desde el punto de vista sustantivo, que se codificaran ahora tales resoluciones y se incorporaran en el Reglamento Financiero de la Organización, en consonancia con las disposiciones establecidas que regulaban otros fondos principales de la Organización.

El Comité tomó nota de que se trataba fundamentalmente de una codificación de disposiciones existentes y vigentes y que serviría para que las disposiciones que hasta ahora se hallaban solamente contenidas en varias resoluciones sucesivas de la Conferencia quedaran fácilmente disponibles para la Organización, sus Estados Miembros y otras personas interesadas, como el Auditor Externo.

El Comité examinó los textos propuestos para los nuevos artículos 6.1(b) y 6.9 del Reglamento Financiero, que reflejaban varios cambios con respecto al proyecto original sugerido por el Comité de Finanzas. El CACJ consideró que las enmiendas propuestas eran correctas desde el punto de vista jurídico. Los miembros del Consejo podrán ver el proyecto de resolución propuesto para la Conferencia acerca de este tema en el Apéndice I del informe del 59º período de sesiones del CACJ, como bien lo indicó usted, Sr. Presidente. Queda por tanto esta materia a decisión del Consejo.

Reitero una vez más, que el Comité se limitó a examinar las propuestas únicamente desde el punto de vista jurídico, de acuerdo a su mandato, encontrándolas correctas y compatibles con los textos fundamentales de la Organización.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Avant de donner la parole au Conseiller juridique, je voudrais faire quelques réflexions.

J'ai eu le privilège de suivre les activités, à la fois du Comité financier et du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Le point qui est en discussion n'est pas un point de décision. Il faut être clair. Le fonds a été créé à l'unanimité des membres de la Conférence en 1977. J'ai relu avec beaucoup d'attention la Résolution 27 de 1977 sur l'ouverture d'un Compte de réserve spécial et j'ai lu également les procès-verbaux des séances plénières, notamment de la séance du 30 novembre 1977 où, à l'unanimité, tous les membres de la Conférence ont adopté la création d'un Compte de réserve spécial. Il y a eu une seule question posée par l'Ambassadeur de Belgique, M. Bayens, qui a demandé une clarification pour savoir de façon précise si la résolution était adoptée par consensus. Il y eut une très longue discussion en commission et la Résolution 27/77 a été adoptée par consensus. D'autres décisions de la Conférence sont intervenues en 1981, en 1987, en 1989 et en 1991.

Une référence complète à toutes les résolutions prises se trouve dans l'excellent rapport qui fait l'objet du document CL 102/17 de la page 64 jusqu'à la fin du rapport (page 75).

Les questions qui ont été discutées, qui ont provoqué une certaine passion, étaient uniquement la question de la reconstitution du compte de réserve spécial, mais jamais l'existence de ce compte n'a été remise en question.

Dans un souci de clarification, dans le souci d'avoir des textes à jour, les comités se sont penchés sur le problème qui consiste à voir incorporée dans le règlement financier une série de résolutions qui ont été prises par différentes conférences, de façon à ce qu'il soit possible à tous les membres de la FAO de savoir ce qui fut décidé. Il est toujours extrêmement difficile de se référer à une série de décisions de conférences. Mais le problème qui nous est soumis à ce jour, ce n'est pas le problème de savoir s'il faut ou s'il ne faut pas un compte de réserve spécial, parce que la question a été

tranchée en 1977 à l'unanimité des membres de la Conférence. Comme vous le savez, il n'entre pas dans le pouvoir du Conseil, que j'ai le grand honneur de présider, de déroger, en quoi que ce soit, à des décisions prises par l'organe suprême, la Conférence, qui rassemble tous les membres.

Le problème qui nous est posé est un problème très simple. Faut-il procéder à une mise au point juridique du règlement financier, de façon à permettre à tous les membres de voir clairement ce règlement financier et de l'actualiser en fonction des décisions qui ont été prises par la Conférence, ou avons-nous intérêt à laisser un certain désordre planer dans nos textes juridiques?

Les discussions qui ont eu lieu au Comité financier et au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques ont été profitables en ce sens qu'au Comité financier un seul membre a pris une position très claire en disant qu'il avait des réserves sur l'existence de ce compte de réserve spécial, mais qu'il n'avait pas d'objections sur le plan juridique. Au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques il y a eu des réserves de deux membres mais pas sur le fond de la question et pas sur la traduction juridique en ce qui concerne les textes qui ont été mis au point par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, textes qui nous sont actuellement soumis.

Je voudrais être clair. Nous ne discutons pas pour le moment du fond, parce que nous n'avons pas à mettre en cause des résolutions de la Conférence. Qu'on aime ou qu'on n'aime pas le compte de réserve spécial, il y a quand même un large consensus pour constater que ce compte est un compte particulièrement important et qu'en ce qui concerne le problème des fluctuations des taux de change, l'existence de ce compte de réserve spécial, avec les achats à terme, a été considérée comme la meilleure méthode pour éviter les fluctuations des taux de change. Mais je voudrais éviter qu'on discute des problèmes qui ont déjà été résolus de manière très claire par la Conférence.

En tant que Président indépendant du Conseil, je dois attirer votre attention sur le fait qu'il n'appartient pas au Conseil de remettre en cause les décisions très claires de la Conférence. Nous discutons d'un point juridique, le point de savoir s'il faut ou non essayer d'améliorer nos textes, de façon à les rendre plus clairs, plus intelligibles pour l'ensemble des membres du Conseil. Il y a parmi les membres du Conseil incontestablement des spécialistes, qui ont attentivement étudié les textes fondamentaux. Cela nous a été rappelé. Moi-même, je m'efforce de les étudier le mieux possible. Mais je crois que pour l'ensemble des membres de la FAO il est utile d'avoir des textes à jour, des textes clairs, sans qu'on doive se référer à une série de décisions qui ont été prises il y a de nombreuses années.

Le compte de réserve spécial existe depuis 1977. Il est clair, et cela a été souligné notamment lors des travaux de la Conférence il y a exactement un an, en 1991, que le compte de réserve spécial est indispensable et s'il a dû être réapprovisionné, pour des raisons que vous connaissez tous: le retard des paiements d'un certain nombre de contributions, nous avons tous exprimé le souhait qu'il n'y aurait plus de retard dans l'avenir. Par conséquent, il n'y aura plus dans l'avenir à réapprovisionner un Compte de réserve spécial qui pourra remplir sa fonction comme cela a été prévu par la Conférence.

J'ai étudié le problème soigneusement. Je ne suis peut-être pas un grand spécialiste en matière financière ni en matière juridique, mais je voulais



situer le cadre de ce débat pour éviter qu'on ne remette en cause les décisions de la Conférence, parce qu'il était de notre devoir d'attirer votre attention sur le fait que nous n'avons pas la compétence ni le pouvoir de ce faire. Il est important que le Conseil reste dans le cadre de sa mission et ne se substitue pas à l'organe suprême qui est la Conférence.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Mr Chairman, again I think you have already made many of the points I was proposing to make but I would like to stress still a few points regarding the proposal to codify the provisions relating to the Special Reserve Account into the Financial Regulations of the Organization as recommended by the CCLM and the Finance Committee; a proposal which I view as being primarily a matter of good legal housekeeping.

The first point is that the proposal to codify the provisions to the Financial Regulations does not in any way change the legal status of the Special Reserve Account, the legal content of the provisions relating to the account, or the legal and financial obligations of Member Nations. The Special Reserve Account has been set up legally under Conference Resolutions which remain in force until revoked by the Conference, and the present proposal merely repeats the main provisions of the Conference Resolutions and incorporates them into the Financial Regulations.

It also does not entail further financial obligations for Member Nations. Should there be a need in the future for any replenishment of the Special Reserve Account this would still require a further Resolution of the Conference, just as it does now.

Secondly, the main reason for the proposal to codify the provisions of the Conference Resolutions, is to bring the Basic Texts into line with the existing practice as laid down by the Conference.

All the other major elements of the financial structure and management of the Organization are already provided for in the Basic Texts including the General Fund, the Working Capital Fund, and even such funds as the Publications Fund; but not the Special Reserve Account even though it has been in existence for some 15 years and is a standard part of the financial management machinery of the Organization.

In this sense the situation is somewhat similar to that of the change in the Programme and Budget process. The new step of the outline Programme of Work and Budget was adopted on an experimental basis for one biennium and for two but, sooner or later, it had to be incorporated into the Basic Texts to bring those texts into line with the standard financial and budgetary practice laid down by the Conference.

Mr Chairman, the third point is somewhat related and that is the need, met by the codification of the provisions into the Financial Regulations, to make those provisions regarding the Special Reserve Account, easily available to all Member Nations and other parties concerned. In this connection, I should point out that in the first discussions in the Finance Committee, one of the main concerns of members was that the texts of the various Conference Resolutions were not available to the members of the Committee. This was despite the fact that the Committee itself was responsible for overseeing the operation of the Special Reserve Account. This is a further and important

need that will be met by the incorporation of the existing provisions of these Conference Resolutions into the Financial Regulations.

The fourth point, Mr Chairman, is that the proposal endorsed by both the Financial Committee and the CCLM, relates only to the codification of existing legal provisions into the Financial Regulations. As you have stated, it does not deal with, or call into question in any way, the substance of the need for, or desirability of, the Special Reserve Account. This is a matter already decided upon by the Conference and the Council, and of course, is bound by the decisions of the Conference.

The fifth and last point, Mr Chairman, is merely to observe that it is the Conference that will be called upon to take the final decision on the proposal before the Council today, that is, if the Council chooses to endorse that proposal.

The Council is then asked merely to endorse the Draft Council Resolution and to submit it to the Conference for its consideration and final decision. That is the point before the Council for decision today.

I would add that the text of the Draft Resolution is that which is set out in Appendix I to the Report of the CCLM entitled "Draft Resolution.../93", amendments to the Financial Regulations on page 9 of the English version of the report of the Fifty-ninth Session of the CCLM.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je tiens à remercier le Conseil d'avoir accepté, ce matin, le report de l'examen de cette question à cet après-midi pour tenir compte du souhait que j'avais exprimé au nom du Président du Groupe africain. Je vous serais très reconnaissant, au nom de mes collègues africains membres du Conseil et, bien entendu, au nom de la Côte d'Ivoire, de bien vouloir permettre au Président du Groupe africain, l'Ambassadeur Ben Romdhane, d'intervenir sur ce point particulier de l'ordre du jour.

Je dois avouer que le Groupe africain attache une importance de tout premier ordre à l'examen de cette question relative à la novation juridique du Compte de réserve spécial qui déterminera, à l'avenir, à la fois la poursuite et la réussite autant du Programme ordinaire que, surtout, du Programme de terrain de la FAO, notamment pour les pays de notre région.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous vous saurions gré de permettre à notre Président, l'Ambassadeur Ben Romdhane, qui a présidé les travaux du Groupe africain sur cette question capitale, de nous donner ici le point de vue unanime des pays de notre continent.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué de la Côte d'Ivoire de sa suggestion. Je vais donner la parole aux membres du Conseil et, ensuite je donnerai aussi rapidement que possible la parole à l'observateur de la Tunisie, Président du Groupe africain, dont l'intervention aura d'autant plus de poids qu'elle interviendra immédiatement après celle des membres du Conseil.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Monsieur le Président, je comprends bien toutes les précautions que vous avez prises dans ce débat délicat. J'essaierai de cheminer, dans mon intervention, entre les précautions que vous nous demandez et l'expression du point de vue du Conseil.

Vous le savez, Monsieur le Président, la France est membre du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques; elle a participé activement aux délibérations de sa cinquante-huitième session et elle se félicite de l'esprit dans lequel le Comité a examiné les propositions d'amendement qui lui étaient soumises, du point de vue de leur conformité juridique et constitutionnelle.

Le document du Conseil CL 102/15 dans son paragraphe 17 relève que plusieurs membres du CQCJ ont fait état au Comité - et vous les avez mentionnées - des réserves de fonds que formulent leurs gouvernements à l'égard du Compte de réserve spécial et, bien que cela ne soit pas spécifiquement mentionné, à l'égard du principe de la codification qui nous est proposée.

Je voudrais préciser la teneur de ces réserves pour ce qui concerne le Gouvernement français. L'amendement qui nous est soumis vise à incorporer les dispositions des résolutions successives de la Conférence dans le Règlement financier de l'Organisation; cette proposition est guidée par le souci, certes rationnel en apparence, de clarifier la situation actuelle en rassemblant toutes les dispositions en vigueur dans un seul et même texte fondamental de l'Organisation, auquel il serait plus aisé de se référer.

Le principe d'une telle codification ne nous paraît cependant pas aussi simple que le suggère le paragraphe 15. En effet, au-delà de questions de pure forme, l'amendement proposé aux Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation tend à institutionnaliser des dispositions prises à titre temporaire en 1977, concernant la création d'un Compte de réserve spécial. Et j'ai relu, à cet égard, les différentes résolutions.

Ces dispositions, je le rappelle, avaient dû être prises dans le contexte particulier de la situation financière à laquelle était confrontée l'Organisation à cette époque. En d'autres termes, il s'agissait de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour faire face à une conjoncture spécifique, avec l'espoir que celles-ci contribueraient à résoudre une situation de crise que nous espérions tous temporaire. Dès lors que les origines de la crise s'estomperaient, ces mesures n'auraient plus lieu d'être.

La France a maintes fois eu l'occasion d'exprimer le souhait que l'ensemble des Etats Membres s'acquittent en temps voulu de leurs obligations financières envers l'Organisation. Voilà la vraie solution "durable" - le mot est à la mode - aux difficultés budgétaires de la FAO; voilà également pourquoi la France n'est pas favorable à un amendement du Règlement financier qui voudrait pérenniser des mesures qui conduisent, en quelque sorte, les "bons" contributeurs à contribuer une seconde fois lors de la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial. Il y a là une position logique, qui est celle que j'adopte depuis le début de la session du Conseil.

En outre je voudrais dire ici que les dispositions en question, s'agissant du Compte de réserve spécial, pourraient avantageusement être remplacées à l'avenir par des procédures plus orthodoxes.

Le Compte de réserve spécial de la FAO est utilisé pour faire des avances de trésorerie, dans l'attente du plein versement des contributions obligatoires des Etats Membres; il fait ainsi double emploi avec le Fonds de roulement dont dispose l'Organisation. On y recourt également pour couvrir les dépenses supplémentaires dues aux fluctuations monétaires. La France suggère depuis plusieurs années que la FAO applique un système apte à la mettre à l'abri des effets de ces variations de change, tel que l'achat à terme de devises que vous avez mentionné ou l'établissement d'un budget en double monnaie. La plupart des autres institutions des Nations Unies (Unesco, OACI, ONUDI, AIEA) ont adopté de tels systèmes et en éprouvent aujourd'hui les bienfaits.

Je tiens à cet égard à faire référence au rapport du Corps commun d'inspection à la quarante-septième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur l'établissement du budget dans les organisations du système des Nations Unies. Une des recommandations de ce rapport du CCI était, pour une organisation comme la nôtre, l'établissement d'un budget en double monnaie. Il est exact de dire, comme l'indiquait le Secrétariat l'autre jour, que la gestion d'un budget en double monnaie s'avère très complexe pour les secrétariats, mais il faut ajouter également que ce système a, jusqu'à présent, donné d'excellents résultats et qu'il a toujours été reconduit par les organes délibérants des institutions concernées.

Pour prendre l'exemple d'une institution que mon gouvernement connaît bien, l'Unesco, il est utile de rappeler que l'Organisation avait dû lancer un important appel de contributions supplémentaires en 1985 pour couvrir les pertes de change. Elle n'a plus connu ce type de problème depuis et tant la dernière Conférence générale que le Groupe d'experts financiers constitué en 1992 se sont prononcés pour le maintien du système en double monnaie.

Certes, ces organisations, comme le reste du système des Nations Unies, sont confrontées à de graves problèmes de trésorerie dus principalement à la carence de quelques contributeurs, mais ces difficultés ne seraient qu'aggravées si elles devaient en outre subir l'effet négatif des fluctuations monétaires.

En conclusion, Monsieur le Président, s'agissant de la forme, ma délégation n'est pas favorable à l'institutionnalisation du Compte de réserve spécial et, quant au fond, elle estime que notre Organisation doit adopter un mécanisme de protection contre les fluctuations monétaires beaucoup plus orthodoxe que celui dont elle dispose actuellement et doit faire les pressions nécessaires sur les contributeurs qui ne sont pas à jour.

Ma délégation n'appuiera donc pas la proposition tendant à transmettre la proposition du Comité à la prochaine Conférence.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je me permettrai de faire remarquer que ce qui est en discussion n'est pas la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial et non plus l'existence de ce compte, et qu'une décision de la Conférence a exactement la même portée juridique, dans le temps et dans l'espace, que le Règlement financier. La portée juridique d'une résolution de la Conférence ne se limite pas à un exercice biennal; une résolution de la Conférence est en vigueur tant que la Conférence, à une session ultérieure, n'y apporte pas d'amendement ni de modification.

J'ai suggéré que le Président du Groupe africain puisse intervenir dès le début. Je suis entre les mains du Conseil. Si celui-ci n'y voit pas d'inconvénient, je vais donner la parole à M. Ben Romdhane, Ambassadeur de Tunisie auprès de la FAO et Président du Groupe africain. Y a-t-il des objections à ce que M. Ben Romdhane prenne immédiatement la parole?

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Vous nous avez précédés, Monsieur le Président. Ce que je voulais faire, en demandant la parole tout à l'heure, c'était d'obtenir la compréhension de tous les membres du Conseil. Je voulais aussi signaler qu'une douzaine de pays africains sont membres du Conseil. C'est justement pour des raisons de commodité et d'ordre dans le débat que tous les pays africains membres du Conseil ont jugé bon de confier au Président de leur groupe les différents points de vue qu'ils ont à exprimer. Je sais que, lorsqu'un observateur veut exprimer son opinion, il le fait à la fin du débat, quand les membres ont fini d'intervenir. Or, dans ce cas précis, M. Ben Romdhane n'intervient pas en temps qu'observateur de son pays, mais pour porter à la connaissance des membres du Conseil les considérations qu'aimeraient présenter les pays de notre continent, membres et non membres du Conseil, afin que nous n'ayons pas à nous répéter.

C'est pour cela, Monsieur le Président, que j'appuie ce que vous avez dit en demandant avec insistance que le Conseil se montre compréhensif et permette à notre Président d'exprimer les avis de tous les ressortissants du continent africain.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie M. Mombouli de son intervention. Sa demande ne s'adresse pas à moi, en tant que Président du Conseil, mais aux membres du Conseil. Je vois qu'il n'y a pas d'objection de leur part.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Sólo, Sr. Presidente, para apoyar lo solicitado por el Congo.

**Amor BEN ROMDHANE (Observateur de Tunisie):** Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de me donner la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. Je remercie également tous mes collègues membres du Conseil, et spécialement mes collègues de Côte d'Ivoire, du Congo et du Venezuela, pour avoir appuyé cette demande du Groupe africain.

Je voudrais remercier l'Ambassadeur Di Mottola, Président du Comité financier, ainsi que M. Samuel Fernandez Illanes, Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, de même que M. Moore, pour leur présentation touchant des points aussi importants les uns que les autres.

En effet, le Groupe africain, que j'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de présider au cours de ce mandat, attache beaucoup d'importance à cette question relative au Compte de réserve spécial. C'est donc en ma qualité de Président du Groupe africain et au nom de tous les Etats Membres africains du Conseil, en particulier, que je m'adresse à vous pour vous faire connaître notre position sur ce point que nous considérons d'une importance capitale pour notre Organisation et son avenir.

C'est pour nous, tout d'abord, un motif de satisfaction de noter, depuis le début de notre session, que le souci majeur de tous les Etats Membres, est de voir la FAO continuer efficacement son oeuvre unique et universelle dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Toutes ces positions démontrent un esprit général de bonne volonté que nous enregistrons avec satisfaction et reconnaissance.

Toutefois, le Groupe africain unanime n'a cessé d'attirer l'attention de la communauté internationale sur l'évolution catastrophique de la situation agricole et alimentaire, aussi bien en Afrique qu'ailleurs dans le monde dit en voie de développement, en raison de la persistance de la crise économique généralisée et des calamités dues à la nature et à l'homme.

Devant cette situation peu glorieuse pour l'humanité tout entière, la FAO est appelée à se mobiliser davantage et à se doter des moyens humains et matériels adéquats lui permettant de jouer pleinement son rôle en répondant efficacement, comme elle l'a toujours fait, aux appels des Etats Membres qui, de plus en plus nombreux, demandent son assistance technique dans le secteur de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Pour ce faire, le Groupe africain estime que le Compte de réserve spécial créé en 1977 a joué pleinement et efficacement son rôle. En effet, ce Compte de réserve spécial dont l'utilisation, depuis 15 ans, est déjà rodée, n'a plus besoin de démonstration. C'est en partie grâce à ce Compte de réserve spécial que les programmes de travail de l'Organisation ont été protégés des effets que pourraient avoir les dépenses supplémentaires non inscrites au budget et le retard de contributions des Etats Membres.

Il a été rappelé, au cours de la présente session du Conseil, l'importance du lien qui existe et doit exister entre le Programme de terrain et le Programme ordinaire de la FAO. Protéger ce Programme ordinaire revient donc à protéger le Programme de terrain, qui est vital pour la FAO, et surtout pour nos pays en développement.

C'est pourquoi, d'ores et déjà, le Groupe africain soutient les amendements nécessaires pour incorporer dans le Règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le Compte de réserve spécial.

Nous sommes en effet appelés à assumer nos responsabilités en dotant l'Organisation des ressources nécessaires lui permettant de remédier aux éventuelles difficultés financières résultant des retards dans le versement des contributions ou aux dépenses supplémentaires résultant des variations de change. Il va sans dire que les pays en développement, en général, et les pays africains, en particulier, en soutenant ces amendements, consentent à un nouveau sacrifice tant il est vrai que ce sacrifice permettra, entre autres, de protéger les programmes de travail de la FAO et permettra à nos économies - et surtout à notre agriculture - de se développer et d'atteindre les objectifs assumés par nos gouvernements.

Monsieur le Président, vous conviendrez avec le Groupe africain que l'objectif du débat ici n'est pas de remettre en cause le Compte de réserve spécial dont la nécessité a toujours et régulièrement été confirmée par la Conférence générale de la FAO depuis 1977. Pour nous, membres du Groupe africain, il s'agit - je l'ai dit tantôt pour signifier notre accord à ce

sujet - de transmettre la recommandation relative au Compte de réserve spécial à la Conférence générale de la FAO de 1993, pour décision.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement M. Ben Romdhane, qui vient de parler au nom du Groupe africain, de son intervention.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** When we are deciding to recommend a change in the Basic Texts, the United States believes it only logical to explore the rationale behind what is construed by the Secretariat as legal housekeeping. The United States continues to oppose this proposal to institutionalize the Special Reserve Account, as we made clear in the Finance Committee and the CCLM. In this regard, we should like to support fully the comprehensive statement made by France, which covered many of our concerns.

Basically, I should like the Council to understand that the United States views special assessments for the SRA and other accounts as an unneeded tax on Member States, and our historical and current problems with taxes are well known. Beyond that, our concerns on these amendments include the following.

First, given the cash flow position of FAO, we are at a loss to understand why it is pressing for governing bodies to institutionalize the SRA now. No members have called for amendments to FAO's Financial Regulations to codify this account, and there is no evidence to suggest that current ad hoc arrangements are unsatisfactory.

Second, this proposal sets a very poor precedent by promoting further divisiveness among Member States on financial issues. Delegates present in this room who attended the November 1991 Conference may recall the difficult debate on the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account through a special assessment of US\$28 million which failed to win the support of many Member States. While special assessments to replenish the Special Reserve Account will not be automatic with the adoption of FAO's proposal, such special assessments will invariably increase. We believe this Council should not recommend a change in Financial Regulations without a clear consensus. The divisive climate we strove to eliminate in 1991 by adopting a consensus budget served no-one, including FAO, well.

Third, the codification of the Special Reserve Account in FAO's Financial Regulations does little to promote efficiencies and economies in financial management practices. In fact, this proposal has the opposite effect. Rather than continuing to put forward proposals that will increase the financial burden on Member States, over half of whom are experiencing difficulties paying their current dues, FAO should present proposals which keep spending in line with budgeted income.

Finally, Germany stated in our discussion on the Finance Committee Report that FAO should follow the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit that reserves the Special Reserve Account should be eliminated. We concur with this approach. We also note that other Member States last Friday expressed similar reservations about the Special Reserve Account.

My Government sees this proposal as unnecessarily divisive. We started to turn a corner in November 1991 with a consensus budget. We believe we need to build consensus on all FAO fiscal and financial policies. Let us take a first

step and not act on this proposal to recommend institutionalizing the Special Reserve Account. FAO needs more confidence-building measures than polarizing ones.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais quand même apporter une précision parce que j'ai relu attentivement les débats de la séance du 26 novembre lors des travaux de la Conférence. La position de la France a été très clairement exprimée lors du vote sur la reconstitution - et non pas sur l'existence - du Compte de réserve spécial. La France, à ce moment-là, a dit qu'elle s'abstenait mais que pour sa part elle aurait tendance à voter en faveur de la reconstitution de ce fonds, mais qu'elle ne voulait pas que les bons "contributeurs" payent pour les mauvais contributeurs.

Ce point de vue a été très clairement exprimé mais je dois, à la vérité, dire que la situation a changé et je suis convaincu qu'à l'avenir nous n'aurons que de bons contributeurs. C'est ainsi que le Compte de réserve spécial aura atteint ce qui était son objectif premier, à savoir d'éviter les fluctuations de change dont l'Organisation n'a pas la maîtrise.

Je dois signaler - et je me réfère au rapport du Comité des finances - que le Comité des finances a unanimement déclaré que l'approche adoptée par le Directeur général et consistant à maintenir un Compte de réserve spécial et à le compléter en cas de besoin par des contrats d'achat anticipé de devises était la solution la plus appropriée pour l'Organisation. Il a été convenu que cette solution serait retenue jusqu'à ce que d'autres, ayant prouvé leur supériorité, puissent être trouvées.

J'avais le devoir de faire référence à ce passage du rapport.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** Before coming to the subject of our discussion, let me note, with all due respect to your person, Mr Chairman, that members of the Council could find the way, you are handling the course of our debate quite confusing and inappropriate. It is the position of our delegation that, as an independent Chairman, you should refrain from influencing the discussion by introductory remarks which could clearly bias its ultimate orientation rather than clarify it. Likewise, in our view, the sequence of speakers, when fixed, should be observed.

Let me come now to my delegation's intervention.

My delegation has carefully studied the text of the Draft Resolution by which the 27th Session of the Conference is asked to approve the incorporation of the Special Reserve Account into the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

My delegation likewise appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat and of the Finance Committee to devise and refine an additional financial safety mechanism. This appears understandable after the critical financial situations our Organization has had to face over recent years. However, according to the proposed text of the new Regulation 6.9 (b) (i), the Special Reserve Account, originally intended to buffer exchange rate fluctuations, is more and more assuming the function of a second Working Capital Fund, i.e. to advance money to the General Fund when contributions are outstanding and budgeted expenditures are to be covered.



During this Council session, Member Nations have again been urged to comply with their financial obligations. Hopefully, the example of the largest contributor and the incentive system to be introduced will enhance a general and sustainable improvement of this vital problem. My country therefore favours measures that will help the Organization to ensure an adequate cash flow on the basis of prompt and full payment of contributions.

As for the relative advantages of different devices to protect the Programme of Work and Budget against unfavourable exchange rate fluctuations, we are still not convinced that the Special Reserve Account is the most efficient solution. I refer in this connection to my statement under Agenda Item 13.

We therefore urge that the Finance Committee and Council continue their efforts to find solutions which might achieve the desired effects in a less costly way.

To codify the Special Reserve Account now, as proposed, would, in our opinion, be detrimental to these efforts. It would again keep open the possibility of special assessments to replenish the account when exhausted due to non-payment of contributions, a solution which is not favoured by my delegation. That is the main reason for my country to express reservations and doubts as to the convenience of this step. Therefore, we cannot support the Draft Resolution under discussion.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement le délégué de l'Allemagne de son intervention dont j'ai particulièrement apprécié la première partie qui, je dois le dire, m'a fait un grand plaisir car elle m'a convaincu de la nécessité de l'indépendance du Président du Conseil. Il est de mon devoir de situer le débat, de signaler les faits tels qu'ils sont réellement et de rappeler le passé pour connaître l'origine de certains problèmes. C'est ce que je m'efforce de faire.

Je le répète, votre réflexion m'a fait grand plaisir parce qu'elle m'honore. Certes, il arrive que certains présidents se trompent - et je m'excuse des erreurs que j'ai pu commettre - mais j'estime agir dans le souci de la vérité, par une interprétation claire et nette, pour le Conseil, des études que j'ai entreprises et de la manière dont les différents comités ont travaillé.

Or, je ne vois pas dans l'exposé que j'ai fait ce qui pourrait susciter l'un ou l'autre reproche.

Je vous remercie de vos réflexions. Il en sera tenu compte, en ce sens qu'à l'avenir je veillerai à maintenir la clarté pour le bon déroulement des travaux de notre Organisation et de notre Conseil.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** The Special Reserve Account has been in operation for the past 15 years by virtue of the various Resolutions of the Conferences in 1977, 1981 and 1987. These are reproduced for reference in Appendix D of document CL 102/17.

As the Chairman of the Council, the Finance Committee and the CCLM have indicated, what the Council is being asked now is not to approve new rules, new procedures, or new provisions for the Special Reserve Account; what the

Council is being asked now is whether it agrees to codify and put in one place together in the Basic Texts the scattered texts of the Conference Resolutions and provisions which are now governing the Special Reserve Account.

This has been referred to as institutionalization of the Special Reserve Account. English is not my mother tongue, but I understand that to institutionalize means to make a temporary or an ad hoc arrangement into a permanent, stable or lasting system. I do not know whether the word "institutionalization" would apply here because, whether or not we approve the codification of the existing Conference Rules, these Rules will continue to govern the Special Reserve Account unless we, the Conference, make the move to amend the current provisions now existing and governing the Special Reserve Account.

I have taken pains to verify whether the Resolution which is recommended to us in document CL 102/15 on pages 9 and 10 corresponds to the various Conference Resolutions texts that are indicated in the Conference Resolutions 22/77, 3/81 and 7/89 in the Appendix to which I have already referred.

I have found that all texts in the Draft Resolution correspond to the various provisions indicated in the various Resolutions which have been approved, except for the proviso on page 10(c)(i) referring to other costs arising from unfavourable differences between exchange rates. I will not bother the Council by saying where I found the various provisos in the Conference Resolution. I have noted all of them but I do not think it would be any use for me to make a list of them all.

The only thing I should like to point out at this stage is that the only difference I found out was that the savings on other costs arising from favourable differences between the lire exchange rate would now be credited to the Special Reserve Account. However, the provisos indicate that all unbudgeted extra costs due to movements of currency exchange rates, including costs other than staff costs, are to be debited to the Special Reserve Account. So it is only logical that the savings from other costs should also be credited to the Special Reserve Account.

Having satisfied myself that this is merely a codification of previous Conference Resolutions and no new obligation is being asked of the member countries, I have no difficulty in agreeing to the Draft Resolution which is presented to us in CL 102/15, pages 9 and 10. Furthermore, the Philippine delegation has already indicated its agreement to this and without further ado I agree to the approval of this Draft Resolution.

**Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** Having carefully examined the document, my delegation wishes to stress the importance of the Special Reserve Account which showed its relevance and importance to FAO's activities. Actually it helped to finance expenditures in the case of financial constraints due to negative exchange rate fluctuations. These facts appeared clearly in the various committee's reports as stressed by the Chairmen of the various committees during our session of the Council. The Chairman of the Finance Committee referred to these reports in the opening of our deliberations.

Therefore, my delegation considers that there are no major discrepancies in the view of the Council members towards this issue. We think that the previous Conferences supported such a Resolution with some reservations. Therefore, my delegation thinks that it would not be necessary at present to open the discussion on this issue; rather we suggest that this issue should be submitted to the forthcoming General Conference for discussion and decision, because we believe that this issue lies beyond the mandate of our Council now.

**Takayoshi ISHIDERA (Japan):** We have already stated our position on the Special Reserve Account in Agenda Item 13, but I should like to reiterate our view at this stage. Japan opposed the Resolution on replenishment of the Special Reserve Account at the Twenty-sixth Session of last year's Conference, because there are some duplications between the function of the Special Reserve Account and that of the Working Fund, and some problems with their efficiency.

In addition, the objectives of the amendment to FAO's Financial Regulations regarding the Special Reserve Account are that it should be used to advance money to the General Fund whenever the Working Capital is insufficient to finance budgetary expenditures as written in 6.9(b)(i) of the draft amendment.

If the amendment is adopted the duplication between the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund will become larger constantly. In this context, Japan cannot support this.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the quality of our Organization's activities is remarkably important and, in this regard, special attention should be given to any appropriate means for the promotion of this substantial issue. Therefore, with regard to the subject of our present discussion, Agenda Item 20.3, my delegation would like to make the following brief comment.

In order to sustain and promote our Organization's capability in tackling the constraints due to the financial problems, my delegation would like to support the Special Reserve Account which had formerly been established, and the related proposal made by the CCLM, as mentioned in the document before us.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Je voudrais féliciter le délégué du Chili, M. Samuel Fernandez Illanes, pour son élection à la Présidence du CQCJ et je voudrais également le féliciter pour nous avoir présenté les deux documents concernant les 58ème et 59ème sessions du CQCJ d'une manière claire et exhaustive. Nous voudrions en outre exprimer l'estime de la délégation libanaise pour les efforts déployés par l'Ambassadeur Poulides au cours de sa présidence de cette commission durant ces quatre dernières années. Nous voudrions enfin remercier le Président Di Mottola pour nous avoir présenté ses observations concernant le Compte de réserve spécial. Nos remerciements vont aussi à M. Moore pour les éclaircissements qu'il nous a donnés.

Dans des circonstances normales je ne vous aurais pas demandé la parole, Monsieur le Président, mais les débats que nous avons eus au sujet du Compte de réserve spécial, me poussent à intervenir pour aborder certains aspects que nous considérons extrêmement importants.

La Conférence générale de la FAO avait adopté en 1977 la création d'un Compte de réserve spécial, et je souligne le fait qu'il s'agit d'une résolution adoptée au niveau de la Conférence générale. Il en est de même des modifications ainsi que du mode d'utilisation de ce Compte. Je dis que cela a été adopté par des résolutions de la Conférence, donc il n'est nullement du droit du Conseil, ou de tout autre organe, de remettre en cause ou de redéfinir la portée ou les effets de la résolution de la Conférence. Je n'exclus pas en cela le Comité des finances ni le CQCJ.

Les propositions du Directeur général sont tout à fait claires. Le Compte de réserve spécial existe depuis près de 15 ans. Il existe une série de résolutions adoptées par la Conférence générale qui régissent ce Compte. Tout ce que l'on nous demande, c'est simplement l'incorporation des dispositions de ces résolutions dans le règlement financier. C'est ce qui a été fait par l'Organisation dans le passé, et je citerais à titre d'exemple, le PCT, qui avait été créé en 1976, et c'est après sa mise en exécution en 1977, qu'on a procédé à l'amendement du règlement financier pour tenir compte de ce programme.

Je citerais à titre d'exemple la méthode suivie par le Directeur général depuis 1989, qui soumet les grandes lignes du programme de travail et budget au Comité financier et au Comité du Programme. En dépit de cela, les règlements généraux qui régissent ces mesures n'ont été amendés que par une résolution de la Conférence en 1991.

Il n'y a donc point de contradiction entre le principe et l'application. Beaucoup de questions ont été posées au sujet du Compte de réserve spécial. Ce sont des questions qui recevront certainement des réponses de la part du Secrétariat. Cependant, nous aimerions exposer certaines observations.

La première de ces observations concerne l'objectif principal de la création du Compte de réserve spécial, à savoir, assurer des ressources financières lorsque le Fonds de roulement n'est pas suffisant pour couvrir les besoins.

Comment peut-on dire que cet objectif est inexistant aujourd'hui? Nous avons entendu le mot inexistant. Dans l'exposé inaugural du Directeur général qu'il a fait il y a quelques jours, il est dit que jusqu'à la réception de la contribution des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, le fonds général a été financé pour un montant de 16 millions de dollars, prélevé sur le Compte de réserve spécial. Le fait d'imposer à l'Organisation de vivre au jour le jour en raison des restrictions imposées au Fonds de roulement par suite du retard dans le règlement des contributions financières implique la nécessité de maintenir le Compte de réserve spécial qui constitue une soupape de sécurité dans les moments critiques.

Le deuxième objectif de la création du Compte de réserve spécial c'est le financement des coûts imprévus dans le budget par suite des fluctuations du taux de change.

Il a été dit que si l'on prend des précautions pour faire face aux fluctuations du taux de change, le Compte de réserve spécial n'a aucun besoin

d'exister. Permettez-moi de contredire cette opinion. Les précautions à prendre pour faire face aux fluctuations du taux de change ne sont pas toujours possibles, et ne sont pas nécessairement dans l'intérêt de l'Organisation; le Secrétariat pourrait donner quelques lumières à ce sujet.

Le troisième but de la création de ce Compte de réserve spécial est de couvrir les frais imprévus dans le budget qui sont dûs à la réalisation des projets. L'utilisation de ce compte, à ce moment-là, est juste et raisonnable. Nous avons entendu certaines déclarations qui s'opposaient à toute mesure tendant à reconstituer le Compte de réserve spécial. D'autre part, nous comprenons que personne n'est disposé à assumer un surcroît de charge. Mais nous voudrions demander au Secrétariat de nous rappeler le nombre de conférences au cours desquelles nous avons eu recours à des mesures spéciales pour reconstituer le Compte de réserve spécial et quels sont les bénéfices qui ont été redistribués aux Etats Membres par suite de l'excédent de ce compte.

Nous appuyons entièrement la proposition du Directeur général, approuvée par le Comité financier et le CQCJ, et nous insistons pour que les amendements au règlement financier soient soumis à la Conférence générale au cours de sa prochaine session, pour approbation.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais me féliciter au nom de la délégation libanaise, pour la manière excellente avec laquelle vous dirigez les délibérations de notre Conseil. Nous considérons que la synthèse que vous faites des questions exposées au Conseil n'a pour but que de faciliter le débat et non pas d'influencer les membres de ce Conseil. Chacun de nous représente un Etat indépendant et possède sa propre opinion. Nous ne sommes pas des mineurs qui ont besoin de quelqu'un pour les guider.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué du Liban pour la question qu'il vient de poser et également pour la dernière partie de son intervention. Je respecte trop la souveraineté des Etats Membres pour imaginer que je puisse les influencer. J'essaie d'être clair pour que les débats puissent être conduits de façon sereine, en tenant compte de toutes les opinions de tous les Etats Membres.

**Rolf AKESSON (Sweden):** We feel a little uneasy here. First of all, we should very much like to take decisions and make recommendations with consensus, especially in matters pertaining to the financial arrangements of the Organization. I need not recall that this would be in the spirit of Resolution 4/91 on the Programme of Work and Budget which we consider to be close to a turning point in the history of the Organization.

More substantively, we are not entirely convinced that exchange rate fluctuations - one of the main purposes of the Special Reserve Account - are actually best dealt with in this way. As we have indicated on earlier occasions, we would very much like to see an evaluation of the options available nowadays in this regard. We are encouraged by the fact that the Finance Committee has reviewed a synopsis of mechanisms used by the organizations of the UN system, and we are convinced that the Secretariat, taking into account work done elsewhere in this respect, could produce an extensive and imaginative study that would impress even our financial masters - a study not necessarily confined to the split currency system which is used

by some organizations, but also open to other possible options, and perhaps also dealing with the other two purposes of the Special Reserve Account and the linkages to other funds available.

Until such a systematic evaluation is available and discussed in all member countries, it would seem difficult, almost imprudent, for us to try to form a well-founded opinion, which is necessary, on the proposal in front of us to codify and incorporate the Special Reserve Account into the Financial Regulations.

**Shahid RASHID (Pakistan):** The delegation of Pakistan has also noted that the Special Reserve Account has been in existence for about 15 years. It was set-up through an unanimous Conference Resolution in 1977 in order to protect the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget against unbudgeted extra costs due to adverse currency fluctuations and inflationary trends. The usefulness of this device was amply demonstrated when, in the following years, great turmoil in the exchange markets was witnessed, coupled with uncertainties regarding receipt of pending contributions.

The Special Reserve Account provided a useful cushion to absorb some of those unforeseen shocks, and it ensured that sufficient cash resources would remain available to the Organization to carry out its programmes and meet its commitments.

However, the Conference had to resort to special assessments in 1987 and again in 1991 to replenish the Special Reserve Account in view of its complete exhaustion due to unfavourable currency markets and major shortfalls in receipt of contributions. The situation has somewhat improved since then, and a favourable exchange rate is likely to provide additional funds for the Special Reserve Account. This, combined with timely payment of contributions, will hopefully ensure that the Special Reserve Account will be replenished without resort to frequent special assessments.

The delegation of Pakistan would like to stress that the proposed incorporation of the provisions relating to the Special Reserve Account in the Financial Regulations is merely a codification of the financial practice of the Organization which has, for all practical purposes, been in vogue for the last 15 years. This is a practice that has been properly authorized by the Conference itself, the supreme governing body of the Organization.

This is hardly the occasion to call into question the very rationale of the Special Reserve Account. The item that is before us, Item 20.3 of the Agenda, is an item pertaining to the Report of the CCLM, and it has reached the stage after having been recommended for approval by the Finance Committee at its 74th Session, where it is now a procedural matter and does not warrant any debate on substantive matters relating to the fundamental question of the Special Reserve Account itself.

The delegation of Pakistan feels that incorporation of the various Conference Resolutions is a useful formal step so that the Financial Regulations and the financial practices which stand properly authorized by the Conference are brought in line with each other. Bringing the various Resolutions within one integrated text will surely strengthen and facilitate financial management. The delegation of Pakistan therefore proposes that the Report of the CCLM be endorsed for adoption by the Conference.

**A. DE JONG (Netherlands):** The delegation of the Netherlands is against the institutionalization of the Special Reserve Account. We would like FAO to follow the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit and eliminate the Special Reserve Account as was earlier said by Germany during the discussion of the Financial Committee Report. Furthermore, we support the intervention just made by our colleague and friend, Mr Harald Hildebrand, of the German delegation. We feel it is unfair that the countries who are paying their contributions promptly are made financially responsible for the institutionalization of the Special Reserve Account for the countries who are not paying their contributions on time.

Mr Chairman, the Netherlands delegation is of the opinion that it is in the interests of our Organization to maintain the spirit of consensus, particularly concerning amendments of financial regulations and related matters.

Why do we feel this way? The reason is very simple; when there is unity in this Organization, the chances are higher that our Organization becomes stronger. When there is divisive quarrelling over financial matters in our Organization it might be compared to a household where the spouses are pushing the bills on to each other rather than combining their efforts to pay their bills jointly with consensus.

**TANG ZHENGPING (China) (Original language Chinese):** Mr Chairman, I would like to start by thanking you on behalf of the Chinese delegation. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Chairman of the CCLM for all the work they have done in this matter.

Having said that, there are two comments I would like to make with respect to the amendments to the financial regulations. Firstly, it is very necessary, because of the fluctuations in exchange rates, that a Special Reserve Account exists in order to allow FAO to implement its programme under the Regular Programme and it seems to us to be the most efficient solution we can find for the time being.

Nevertheless, the account should only be used to deal with monetary fluctuations and exchange rate fluctuations because to use it in order to feed the Working Capital Fund means imposing an unfair and unjust extra financial burden on Member Nations who regularly pay their assessed contributions.

We feel that it is not advisable in the amendment to the financial regulations to assign to the Special Reserve Account this extra role of funding Working Capital Funds. What is important is to take effective steps to ensure that Member Nations pay their assessed contributions fully and punctually.

Next, Mr Chairman, since exchange rate fluctuations and monetary fluctuations vary from year to year to different degrees, there are repercussions on FAO's Regular Programme. These will differ also and since the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account affects the financial burden on Member Nations, we think we should adopt a more flexible method of tackling the problem, that is, set the rate of replenishment according to the conditions prevailing in a specific year instead of fixing the proportion that it represents in the effective operational budget. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Australia voted against the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account at the last Conference.

However, since that time, we have paid our contribution to the Special Reserve Account. We have also made our contribution to the replenishment of the Working Capital Fund and have paid our 1992 contribution in full.

We do not, however, support this Resolution which will institutionalize the mandatory replenishment by members in the financial regulations.

The unanimous acceptance of the Special Reserve Account in 1977 was 15 years ago - a decade and a half ago - a third of the life span of FAO ago. France has referred to it being a temporary measure to address circumstances existing at that time. Many things have changed in the period since such as the extent to which individual Member Countries are meeting their contribution obligation.

We have heard during the period of this Council that many members remain behind in those contributions. There is a principle involved here, Mr Chairman. As one of the uses of the Special Reserve Account is to redress shortfalls in the contributions of other members, we feel it is inappropriate that Australia and countries like us, who pay their contribution regularly and are never in arrears, should be penalized by a possible compulsory requirement in the future to contribute again in order to make up the shortfall in the contributions by others.

Mr Chairman, I would like to be associated with the earlier part of the German delegation's intervention but not with your interpretation of it! Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il ne me reste qu'à vous remercier, comme j'ai remercié le représentant de l'Allemagne en ce qui concerne la première partie de son intervention. Je vois que vous l'appuyez et cela me fait particulièrement plaisir.

J'ai reçu hier la visite du Président du Groupe OCDE, qui m'a dit qu'un papier circulait, papier qu'il serait peut-être élégant de me remettre. Si certaines délégations ont des reproches à m'adresser, je suis tout disposé à les écouter. Bien entendu, je me dois à mon devoir d'objectivité et je me dois de suivre les Textes fondamentaux tels qu'ils existent. Je dois également veiller à ce que les débats du Conseil se déroulent dans une atmosphère de grande ouverture et de vérité - car la vérité est quand même très importante - de même que dans une atmosphère de compréhension du point de vue des uns et des autres.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** En este momento, Sr. Presidente, me toca hablar como Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe. Las palabras que voy a decir se refieren a la opinión expresada por la mayoría de este Grupo.

Indudablemente que sería imposible ignorar la existencia de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva; es algo que forma ya parte de la historia de la FAO, ratificada en dos y tres instancias que son la mayor autoridad, como es la Conferencia de la FAO. Nosotros en la reunión de los países latinoamericanos



no encontramos objeción fundamental para la aprobación de estos textos; pero tampoco deseamos llegar a un enfrentamiento. Por esta razón yo voy a apoyar en toda su extensión la intervención del delegado de Filipinas, quien de una manera extraordinaria y muy clara dejó explicada la validez de la resolución que se está discutiendo y manifestó que no significa institucionalizar en el sentido de hacerlo obligatorio para todo el mundo, sino que la intervención del delegado de Filipinas, a la vez que clara y veraz, deja también explicado el asunto que nos ocupa ahora. No creo que nosotros debamos llegar a un debate de enfrentamiento en esta reunión y, por esta razón, la mayoría de los delegados del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe que hoy cruzó ideas al respecto, está de acuerdo con que se posponga la discusión a fondo de este tema, si así lo desea el Consejo, ya que sería esta la única manera de poder aclarar este asunto.

No podemos negar la necesidad de la existencia de un Fondo de Reserva. La FAO en sus últimos años ha venido sufriendo el problema de la falta de pago, no solamente de aquellos países cuya situación económica les lleva a no poder satisfacer sus obligaciones, sino también de países todavía poderosos que, por unas razones que respetamos, han dejado de pagar su contribución. Lamentablemente en este año yo siento la vergüenza de decir que por primera vez en cuarenta años, desde que Venezuela es miembro de la FAO, ha demorado el pago de sus cuotas hasta este mes. No lo ha dejado de pagar totalmente ya que había abonado el año anterior parte de la cuota, pero no tenemos hasta este momento una solvencia, cosa que, como digo, nos avergüenza y que esperamos que se subsane en lo que falta del año; pero no dejamos de reconocer que esta situación que afecta a muchos países del Tercer Mundo que no cumplen con sus obligaciones porque materialmente no pueden subsistir, no puede convertirse en una regla para todos los países de la FAO y no podemos mantener una especie de sanción eliminando el Fondo de Reserva para quienes verdaderamente están necesitados.

Se ha demostrado que ese Fondo de Reserva desde que existe ha servido para poner en vigencia y para llevar adelante los dos programas más importantes de la FAO: el Programa de Campo y el de Cooperación Técnica. Sin ese Fondo Especial de Reserva, y sin la capacidad e inteligencia administrativa de nuestro Director General, no habríamos podido hacer frente a las verdaderas necesidades de los países del Tercer Mundo que son los que realmente están esperando auxilio de la FAO, porque, naturalmente, los países industrializados no necesitan programas de cooperación técnica y programas de campo. Sin embargo, deberíamos dejar bien claro, y me consta porque conozco el sistema de trabajo, que también los grandes países industrializados se benefician, y mucho, de la FAO. ¿A quién beneficia el Codex Alimentarius? ¿A quién benefician las estadísticas y los programas de alerta temprana, que avisan cuando las cosechas pueden perderse o no? ¿Es acaso a los países que no tienen cosechas que hacer, o a los países que tienen muchas veces excedentes de cosechas que deben usar para asistir a los países hambrientos? De manera que no podemos decir que estos Programas de Campo de la FAO, que los Programas de Investigación, Estadísticas, de Proyectos, de Promoción y Proyección Económicas, son sólo para los países hambrientos o para los países necesitados. Son también para aquellos países que controlan los mercados y que pueden beneficiarse de estas informaciones de los organismos de investigación de la FAO, mediante los cuales ellos pueden proyectar el desarrollo de su economía.

Por esta razón, yo creo, Sr. Presidente, que no es una cuestión de caridad de los grandes países que contribuyen para que los pequeños necesitados se

satisfagan. No, esto es una especie de gran cooperativa en donde unos reciben beneficios de una clase y otros reciben beneficios de otra. Todos contribuyen al mantenimiento de esta Organización, que ha recibido muchos elogios en este Consejo precisamente. Yo he escuchado intervenciones donde se ha reconocido la admirable administración que ha presentado la Secretaría en algunos de sus programas presentados al Consejo. ¿Cómo podemos ahora negarle la posibilidad de que mediante un Fondo Especial de Reserva se tenga la posibilidad frente a estas fluctuaciones del cambio, frente a estas inseguridades del mercado, de que pueda la FAO atender las necesidades para su Programa de Campo y para su Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que son los que más interesan a los países del Tercer Mundo?

Por todo esto, Sr. Presidente, yo creo que el GRULAC, integrado por países entre los que hay bastantes necesitados, como son los del Caribe y de América Latina, están de acuerdo con que este problema se posponga, si es que vamos a llegar a un enfrentamiento lamentable, y que se estudie en serio para que en un instancia posterior pueda tomarse una resolución definitiva.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Seremos muy breves yendo directamente al grano, pues tanto los Presidentes del Comité de Finanzas, de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, el Dr. Moore, así como varios colegas del Consejo, han explicado claramente y con basamento inobjetable punto de vista que compartimos y, que no vamos a repetir.

Algunos que recuerde: el Presidente del Grupo Africano, las delegaciones de Filipinas, Irán, el Líbano, y, recientemente, la Embajadora de Venezuela, fundamentalmente en lo referente a los acuerdos de nuestra región.

Confesamos en este sentido, Sr. Presidente, que al parecer un tema que nuestra delegación no creía pudiera tener gran complicación pese a su importancia haya despertado una gran expectación, tomas de posesiones, etc.

Nuestra delegación tenía como antecedente y aquí se ha repetido también, y lo refleja claramente que el documento que no se trata de nada nuevo, que forma parte de la legislación vigente que data de 15 años, que además, ha sido objeto de un profundo análisis de dos de nuestros Comités, el de Finanzas y el de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

En este importante renglón organizativo se señala que se trata básicamente de una codificación de disposiciones vigentes que serviría para que las disposiciones que hasta ahora figuraban sólo en varias resoluciones sucesivas de la Conferencia, estuvieran fácilmente disponibles para la Organización, sus Estados Miembros y las personas interesadas. Razón por la cual, la delegación de Cuba no tiene ninguna dificultad en respaldar lo referente a la enmienda del Reglamento Financiero para incorporar las disposiciones de las correspondientes resoluciones de la Conferencia relativas a la Cuenta Especial de Reserva.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I do not propose to prolong this debate. I will keep my statement very brief.

I have already stated at an earlier Item on the Agenda this week that my delegation does not support the proposal currently under debate. I will not rehearse all the arguments put forward this afternoon. I have really nothing

to add to them. I would simply like to associate my delegation with the statements made by France, United States of America, Germany, Japan, Sweden, the Netherlands and Australia.

In conclusion, my delegation would be extremely grateful if you could actually reflect on the opening remarks of the German delegation.

**LE PRESIDENT;** Je ne vais pas répéter ce que j'ai déjà dit deux fois. J'aurai d'ailleurs certainement l'occasion, au terme des travaux de ce Conseil, de revenir sur ce point de manière très claire.

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** As this is the first time that we have taken the floor, I would like to take the opportunity of endorsing the tributes addressed to the former Chairman of the CCLM and to congratulate the new Chairman on his election to this important position.

It is with regret and with respect to the person of the Chairman and the difficult position that he occupies that we also endorse the comments made by the distinguished representative of Germany at the beginning of his intervention and those of the Australian delegation at the end of his.

Regarding the amendments of the financial regulations to institutionalize the Special Reserve Account, Canada considers that it would not be in the interests of member countries or of the long-term financial health of the FAO to adopt such an amendment. Accordingly, Canada does not support this proposal.

We take this position because we are unconvinced as to the need to institutionalize the Special Reserve Account, given the current financial situation of the FAO, the alternative contingency financial mechanisms available to the Organization and the original temporary nature of this instrument, as was noted both by the delegation of France and of the Philippines and which we consider remain unchanged.

We also believe this mechanism holds strong potential as a means for relieving delinquent members of their obligations to the FAO, and for concurrently imposing additional financial burdens on those good corporate citizens, such as Canada, who invariably give substance to their commitment to this Organization by honouring, in full, their financial obligations. Finally, we accept as unproven the apparent judgment of most members of the Finance Committee that this Special Reserve Account provides the best solution to the financial ills of the Organization at the present time, be they of an exchange or other nature. We believe that the best antidote to the financial ailments of the FAO is, in fact, for each country to operationalize their membership by paying their assessments in full and on time. Failing this, we believe that the only solution is to cut the cloak to fit the cloth.

Given the debate which occurred on the Special Reserve Account at the Conference in 1991, it is clear that this subject is not a consensus-building instrument. Given also that existing arrangements respecting the Special Reserve Account continue to meet the needs of the Organization, there is no compelling reason for institutionalizing it. Given, finally, that we are on the verge of embarking on the bi-annual process of defining priorities and programmes, we question the wisdom of setting the stage for this journey with

a consensus-breaking action on an issue devoid of incremental substantive utility but replete with policy and symbolic baggage on which categorical opposites have been and continue to be the norm. Accordingly, we recommend no action on this item.

**Iván MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia):** La señora Embajadora de Venezuela ha hecho una declaración en nombre de los países del GRULAC, declaración que en su conclusión fundamental interpreta la posición de mi país y que por lo tanto, refrendamos al margen de la naturaleza financiera y jurídica de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva, al margen de su eficiencia técnica y al margen de este tipo de consideraciones, nosotros le solicitamos al Consejo que postergue el análisis y la decisión sobre esta materia hasta cuando exista un consenso sobre ella.

Nos parece un error decidir un asunto de esta naturaleza en una votación que cristalizaría un esfuerzo inútil y que desgastaría esta Organización.

Reitero entonces, Sr. Presidente, mi solidaridad con las palabras expresadas por la señora Embajadora de Venezuela en nombre del GRULAC, en la cual solicitamos que se postergue esta discusión hasta cuando exista un consenso.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** By intervening for the first time on this Agenda Item, my delegation on behalf of the 13 Member States of the CARICOM sub-region of the Latin American Caribbean expresses its deepest gratitude to Ambassador Poulides, the former Chairman of the CCLM, for his wisdom and guidance over the years and warmly welcomes our friend Samuel Fernández Illanes to the Chair.

One of the things about our Organization and those of the United Nations system that gives validity, credibility and vitality to the Organization is an adherence and commitment to the principles that all ideas and views can and must contain, and so they will in the course of this debate on this particular subject.

The issue for our consideration and decision is clearly and logically put in the document before us.

In this intervention we wish to locate our viewpoint and that of the 13 Member States which my delegation represents in context.

My delegation shares the view that prudent financial management and discipline are required in all aspects of human affairs and, given the times in which we live today, are a sine qua non for functional efficiency of intergovernmental organizations like the FAO.

We note, however, that prudent financial management is indeed not only an aspect of finance but, importantly, a facet of management. Accordingly, management must be permitted to perform by a framework of facilitating rules and regulations and mechanisms which constrain actions and activities to those which are accountable and make sense without restricting initiative. It is in this context that the Special Reserve Account was unanimously approved by consensus in 1977 and further confirmed and increased, again by consensus, in 1981, and ever since has been approved by the vast majority of the membership.

The provisions relating to the operations of the Special Reserve Account are comprehensively and clearly spelled out and are fully understood and accepted by most of us as being crucially necessary to the functioning of the Organization. Indeed, events in recent years have pointed to the wisdom of the membership in this regard.

The merit of the Special Reserve Account is not under discussion at this time, but we need to remember the lessons of history lest we be condemned to repeat the mistakes of the past. The issue here is codification and incorporation of agreed, approved and undoubtedly necessary and sensible arrangements and mechanisms within the Financial Regulations, nothing added, nothing changed, and that which is emblematic of the very transparency and good governance of which we speak, an act which is supported by the Finance Committee and the CCLM and indeed is consonant with actions which have been taken from time to time with a view to incorporating provisions into the Basic Texts.

What is being proposed here, and what we fully support, is much similar to the position which the CARICOM group of states is taking in New York in supporting the Secretary-General in his efforts to do likewise in order to solve the budgetary problem of the United Nations.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I shall be brief, Mr Chairman. I had not thought that the proposal we have been considering would generate so much controversy. I feel that it only formalizes an existing state of affairs. The Council is considering not taking a decision now on the substantive matter but forwarding the proposal to the general Conference at its next session. I think there are good reasons for doing this.

The delegate of the Philippines recounted earlier how this whole thing started unanimously by the Conference Resolutions of 1977 and 1981 and by a majority of Member States supporting continuance of this provision. We have all realized that it has been necessary and has kept this Organization going, in spite of great financial difficulties. As Mr Carandang clarified, this does not mean any extra financial liability of members.

I also think that this proposal is for the benefit of FAO. My perception of the situation is that it benefits the Organization. Somebody referred to spouses fighting over the payment of bills. I should like to refer to the housewife who saves a little every month and builds up a reserve and then meets the contingencies. My delegation looks at this reserve not as a fight over the payment of bills but as a contingency reserve to meet difficult situations, and experience bears that out. If we refuse to heed that experience, I think we shall deny ourselves this provision.

My delegation has already supported this provision when participating in the debate on Item 13, the reports of the Finance Committee, earlier. I reiterate my support for this provision. However, I should like to entreat all members of this August Council to think about it coolly instead of treating this as a confrontation between the members and the Secretariat. I think they should think about this proposal coolly and give it their positive support.

**Oscar SALES PETINGA (Portugal):** La délégation portugaise maintient la position qu'elle a prise lors de la Conférence de 1991 sur l'autorisation du

Compte de réserve spécial. Nous ne sommes pas d'accord avec le système proposé pour utiliser ce compte.

Nous considérons prématuré de recommander à la Conférence un projet de résolution venant d'un Conseil divisé sur ce sujet. Nous pensons qu'il serait convenable que le Conseil recommande au Secrétariat de continuer à étudier d'autres alternatives et solutions qui pourraient être présentées à la prochaine session du Conseil.

**Gamal Mohamed AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** My delegation would like to join the African group and express our full support for the statement made by His Excellency Ben Romdhane at the beginning of this afternoon's meeting when he spoke on behalf of the African group.

It is difficult, of course, to ignore the Special Reserve Account. It has been with us for quite a long time. It is a system which has been in use for years now. It was a provisional measure but it has gone on for over 15 years and has proved its value, its worth, in helping us keep the Organization's programmes going whilst protecting them against exchange rate fluctuations and the impact of inflation, things which happen time and time again, as we all know.

This matter has been discussed on many previous occasions, and the importance of the Special Reserve Account has been stressed on many occasions. In fact, Resolutions have been adopted at consecutive Conference sessions to renew the operation of the Special Reserve Account. My delegation did not think anyone could disagree as regards the effectiveness of this account. The CCLM, which is one of this Council's Committees, has considered the Special Reserve Account carefully, as we know from its report, and has proposed certain codifications so that it might be included in the Financial Regulations of the Organization. We feel this is a rational step and one which is necessary to protect the Regular Programme of FAO and also the Field Programmes of the Organization.

Obviously we are not going to discuss this Draft Resolution in detail now paragraph by paragraph, but we feel in general terms that it would be appropriate for this Council to send this Resolution forward to the next Conference session. In fact, we feel it is absolutely necessary to do so. As His Excellency Ambassador Di Mottola said, we need one single, clear text without having to refer time and again to various Resolutions from different Conference sessions about this matter. We also note that the Finance Committee felt that this was a balanced and useful text which did justice to the importance of the Special Reserve Account. The CCLM, as we see from its report, felt that this Draft Resolution was properly balanced and have mooted the idea that it should be submitted by this Council to the next Conference session for adoption.

Our Legal Counsel has made it clear that this Resolution simply brings together the material found in the various Resolutions adopted by the Conference in the past and does not involve or imply any additional financial burden on Member Nations. It is nothing new. It is simply codifying what already exists and reorganizing the texts into one coherent text in order to help FAO from a financial and administrative point of view.

We support the proposal that this Resolution be submitted to the next Conference session for consideration and decision and we hope that the Conference will take a wise decision on it next year.

I support my colleague Mr Vishnu Bhagwan with regard to the need to consider this matter calmly and objectively because of its considerable interest, but I should also like to agree with the delegate of Lebanon in paying tribute to you, Sir, for the manner in which you have conducted our proceedings.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** La delegación de Brasil quisiera decir que está también muy contenta y muy satisfecha con la manera equilibrada con la cual usted preside nuestros trabajos desde el inicio de esta sesión del Consejo.

La delegación de Brasil quiere también apoyar las declaraciones hechas por las delegaciones de Venezuela, Cuba y Colombia, en el sentido de que esta cuestión está provocando divergencias y puntos de vista conflictivos.

Como los demás países latinoamericanos, nuestra delegación no está interesada en una confrontación. Lo que nos interesa siempre en la FAO es buscar el consenso, para continuar trabajando en solucionar los problemas de la alimentación y la agricultura.

En ese sentido, consideramos que podríamos pensar también con más calma, como lo ha propuesto el delegado de la India, y quizás hacer alguna consulta más, para en un futuro próximo llegar a un consenso. El consenso es lo que interesa a los países miembros de la FAO.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare close la liste des orateurs inscrits sur ce sujet.

Avant de passer la parole au Secrétariat et au Directeur général adjoint pour répondre aux très nombreuses questions qui ont été posées, je ne reviendrai pas sur ce qui a été dit par le représentant de l'Allemagne que je remercie tout particulièrement; j'aurai l'occasion d'en parler en fin de Conseil.

Je m'étonne un peu que ce débat ait pris une telle dimension pour une question mineure. Nous sommes appelés à nous prononcer. Il n'y aura en aucun cas ni vainqueur ni vaincu. Je crois que M. Carandang a très bien posé le débat. Nous avons des résolutions de la Conférence qui font qu'un Fonds de réserve spécial existe. Qu'on l'aime ou qu'on ne l'aime pas, c'est une autre question. Chaque pays membre du Conseil a le droit d'exprimer une opinion. Mais ce fonds a été adopté à l'unanimité en 1977 par l'ensemble des Membres de la Conférence, ce qui veut dire que le travail qui a été fait maintenant est un travail de nettoyage de texte. Le débat qui intervient prend une dimension extraordinaire et voudrait tendre à remettre en cause l'existence de ce fonds qui existe, en demandant de trouver un consensus, alors que ce que l'on demande ce n'est pas de se prononcer, nous demandons simplement que les textes ayant créé le Fonds de réserve spécial soient coulés dans une forme juridique présentable et que nous transmettions dans un projet de résolution à la Conférence ce texte juridique. La Conférence, dans un an exactement, sera appelée à se prononcer. D'ici un an, nous avons tout le temps pour rechercher un accord non seulement entre les pays membres du Conseil mais également entre tous les pays membres de la Conférence. On devra se prononcer, lors de la Conférence, non pas sur l'existence d'un Fonds de réserve spécial qui existe, mais sur la traduction dans le Règlement

financier qui n'a pas plus de valeur sur le plan juridique que les résolutions de la Conférence.

Nous allons continuer notre débat en écoutant les observations et le point d'ordre du délégué des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Je passerai ensuite la parole au Directeur général adjoint et aux membres du Secrétariat pour répondre aux questions de façon à ce que le problème soit clairement posé.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** With all due respect, Mr Chairman - and I fully understand your interest in attempting to promote a Resolution of this issue - I must say that you have engaged in advocacy and not maintained a neutral stance. I should like to point that out to you because you have been in the Chair quite some time and, therefore, you may not be aware of this.

I trust you will accept this in the constructive spirit in which it is offered.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je répondrai au représentant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique que je n'ai pris aucune position déterminée; que j'ai situé simplement le problème; que je n'ai fait preuve d'aucune partialité en ce qui concerne ce débat; et que je l'ai situé exactement comme il doit être situé.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** A rather famous person once said that one of the most difficult things in life is to keep simple things simple. I think that we are today experiencing that phenomenon. As has been repeatedly mentioned, this is a very simple, very straightforward matter, to take matters previously decided, already agreed, that will continue to be in effect irrespective of the decision of this body, and to put them into the rules book so that they can easily be found. A very simple matter. We tried to follow the normal procedures with the Finance Committee reviewing the matter, the Committee on Constitutional Legal Matters reviewing the matter, and bring it to you believing that it would not be a matter for debate or discussion; it was just basically a routine thing to put the stamp of approval on.

What, in all sincerity, is probably of deeper concern are the arguments which have been presented for not agreeing to have the decisions which the superior body, your parent body, has already accepted, endorsed. Therefore, I feel a need to speak about some of those points. Mr Shah will speak of others.

First, there was a comment about the word "overlap", and the word "duplication" and similar terminology, implying that this Special Reserve Programme duplicates the Working Capital Fund. Obviously you have not read the text of the 1977 Resolution, or any one subsequently, or the draft that stands before you. Because what does it say? "to advance monies to the General Fund..." -- what are the next few words? -- "...whenever the Working



Capital Fund is insufficient to finance budgetary expenditures pending receipt of contributions from Member Nations..."

In other words, it is a complement to an insufficient Working Capital Fund. There has been the implication that under our present circumstances, with the major contributor having paid its obligation, we do not need this back-up mechanism to the Working Capital Fund. Please recall the Director-General's statement on the opening day. We had to advance from the Working Capital Fund to the General Fund on the 5th day of October US\$22 930 000. On the first day of November we had to advance from the Special Reserve Account US\$16 000 000 to pay the obligations. We had to use it in this year when the situation supposedly and reportedly and rightly is better in terms of overall receipt of contributions. Nevertheless, we have in fact had to tap both what was in the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account in order to pay the bills pending receipt of contributions.

Second, there were comments that implied expenditures should be adjusted to conform to the flow of receipts. Are you serious? Do you really believe that on the 5th day of October we should have fired essentially all of our staff and kept them in an unemployed status until the contribution came in from the United States in early November? Would anybody believe that that would be the right kind of management that this Council or the Conference would entrust to this Director-General? That would certainly be no way to "run a railroad".

We did not advance this money to do anything over and above what the Conference had approved. We advanced the money in order to be able to implement the reduced programme which you have already reviewed. We could not do it anyway. People have contracts. Many of them have continuing contracts. You cannot treat people like that. You cannot throw them away one day and pick them up the next. You just cannot.

There were several comments and reasons given which suggested some could not favour taking this action because there were alternative ways of managing currency fluctuations. I know that some of you have not been with this body very long, and therefore do not know very much of the history of the Organization, but I can assure you that if you had been reading the Reports of the Finance Committee and of the previous Councils, you would know that the Organization has been seized with this matter for years. It is at almost every session of the Finance Committee that they review the experience elsewhere in the system for managing currency fluctuations.

The Chairman read to you the latest conclusion of the Finance Committee, a conclusion in September, which said that after reviewing these things once again, all things considered, it appeared that the Special Reserve Account complemented with the forward purchase of currency was as good as one could find. That is not the exact terminology, but what they were saying to us was based on the reviews that have gone back to the early 1980s, and at this point they would not recommend that we change from the present mechanism which, as has repeatedly been mentioned, was considered and adopted in 1977 by consensus.

I might just point out that, with respect to the gains and losses on currency, since it was established the gains have aggregated to US\$55 925 000; the losses, including the amount that had to be taken from the General Fund because there was an insufficient amount in the Special Reserve Account, have aggregated to US\$50 594 000. In other words, we are still

overall in the black instead of in the red. We have a net gain on currency operations.

In this year we have forward purchased currency. Had we not done so we would probably have gained more than we will, but nevertheless we locked ourselves in, and not too many weeks ago we were being complimented very much for locking into a minimum gain position. But so it goes.

There was the suggestion that by opposing this action - turning it down - one would not have to worry about special assessments; or, alternatively stated, perhaps it was the fact that there had to be a special assessment last time to replenish the Special Reserve Account that is causing concern about taking action today. The action would have absolutely nothing to do with that. There would still have to be a Resolution to authorize a special assessment. With this Resolution, if it is adopted, you still could not have a special assessment to replenish the Reserve without having a special Resolution. That matter would have to be taken up at that time. So please do not think that by passing this you have got an automatic replenishment mechanism that you have established and forced upon yourselves. You do not. So the special assessment argument does not seem to be a valid one.

As for the alternative ways of managing currency, at least we are getting advice through our established committees and bodies not to rock the boat at this point. So that does not seem to be a good argument. The overlap/ duplication view certainly is not an argument.

There was the point that if all paid on time we would not have to have a Working Capital Fund or the first provision of the Special Reserve Account. Nobody can deny that. It is absolutely true, if everybody paid on time. The only trouble is that they do not and they will not, and therefore you need reserves. You will recall that you have approved a mechanism trying to encourage people to pay on time, and every single time you meet you can find a paragraph where you are urging member countries to pay on time and to pay their arrears. At the same time, the report you review says not all of them have done so. You will recall this time - just a few days ago - a great deal of consternation was being expressed because I believe 107 member countries had not paid all or any of their contribution for this year. This is simply a fact of life, and good management demands that you have a way to accommodate and live with it. We do not like it a bit. We wish that everybody would pay, as some members do, in the very first days of the year, but all of them do not. Some of them have legislation that prevents them.

On the question of legislation, by taking an action here today you cannot convince the legislative bodies of many countries of the world that they should change their practices. I wish you could, but you cannot.

The Representative from the Philippines made the point that he had noted "other costs" being added to the Resolution. He had noted that, and then he gave the answer on why this addition is made. If you cover all the losses, you should capture all the gains; it is simply an equitable proposition.

At this point I will stop and let Mr Shah, who has been here a lot longer than I have and who knows the history of this programme much better than I, respond to some of the more general points.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** During the debate I was fascinated by a number of references made to the imagery of husbands and wives. Let me say that I do not think Mr Hjort and myself would like to consider being either the husband or the wife, but we do work fairly closely together, happily for us, and therefore I appreciate very much the possibility of providing some further responses to the statement that he has just made. This is in no way any reflection of my needing to add to the points he has made, but responding to some other points in a different perspective.

I should like to take some of the recurrent themes in this debate which you have had, the first one being that several delegates gave their perception of the Special Reserve Account as having been established initially in a situation or in a time of crisis which had to deal with problems which were transitory, thus implying that with the passage of time and with the greater prosperity and happiness which we are apparently enjoying, we no longer need the Special Reserve Account.

The financial and budgetary problems that we have faced since 1986 in my perception have been much greater than anything the management of this Organization had to face in the years before, and certainly in 1977 when the Special Reserve Account was established. It was not due to one crisis; it was due to the need for this Organization to have a mechanism to deal with basically three problems which are of a continuing nature. I may say they are almost chronic.

In the debate it is very easy to say and to hear that the first purpose of the Special Reserve Account is to supplement the Working Capital Fund, but that if the Working Capital Fund has enough resources, you do not need to draw on any additional resources, you do not need the Special Reserve Account. Such an argument focuses on one of the purposes of the Special Reserve Account, and my colleague Mr Hjort has given you the most recent example of how the Working Capital Fund was inadequate to deal with the situation, even during the last month.

To say that the adverse effects of currency fluctuation are a thing of the past - we all question that. They were a thing of the past, let us say, in the period of 1945-1970 or thereabouts when the only adverse effects of currency exchanges occurred when there were major devaluations of the US dollar, but since the early 1970s we all know what the currency fluctuations have amounted to in most of the currencies which affect us. I think we all realize that these fluctuations have a tendency to continue. Certainly, there is no solution in sight, even from the monetary masters of the world.

The third purpose of the Special Reserve Account, to permit unbudgeted costs to be covered, leads me again to the point that Mr Hjort made about the fact that the Special Reserve Account does not give the Director-General or anyone in this Organization the authority to spend more than is provided for in the approved Budget, in the approved Programme of Work.

The Special Reserve Account deals in this case with the action or inaction of the Conference in providing adequate budgetary provision to cover foreseeable costs, and it provides a safety in those instances where costs could not be foreseen and where programme cuts and programme adjustments cannot deal adequately with the problem.

For these reasons, I would very respectfully submit that the three purposes of the Special Reserve Account really have to be seen together. They have to be seen in the continuing context of problems and are not possible to relate to any temporary phenomenon.

The second theme which repeatedly came up, and which I should like to address, is the perception that the Special Reserve Account is a burden to Member Nations. Mr Hjort has certainly given you some valid arguments, but let me give you a different perspective to complement his remarks.

The initial establishment of the Special Reserve Account in 1977 was based on the utilization of a cash surplus of the previous biennium. Certainly that cash surplus belonged to you. You, the Member Nations in Conference, agreed that US\$5 million should be taken and put in the Special Reserve Account. In the biennia since then, I would like to show that all the gains which have occurred or all the charges which have been made to the Special Reserve Account were outside the control of the Secretariat and were, in the final analysis, to the advantage of the Member Nations.

In 1978-79 there was a currency loss of US\$3 467 909. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I will round off these figures, which makes it easier to understand.

So, there was a loss of US\$3.5 million. That was drawn on the Special Reserve Account.

In 1980-81, the authorized level of the Special Reserve Account was just under US\$7 million but there were gains of US\$18 million. For the next biennium we had to retain 5 percent of the budget for the SRA at the beginning of the biennium and so US\$18.3 million was retained, but US\$1.1 million was redistributed to Member Nations as the cash surplus. In 1982-83 we started the biennium with US\$18.3 million and there were currency gains of US\$16.4 million. At the end of that biennium US\$13.7 million as redistributed to Member Nations through the cash surplus. In 1984-85 we started with an SR rate of US\$21 million. There were currency gains of US\$10.6 million. This led to a distribution of US\$9.8 million to Member Nations through cash surplus. For these three biennia US\$24.6 million.

I give this information, Mr Chairman, to show that the gains which Mr Hjort referred to over the period are not abstract gains only. There were gains which were distributed to you and distributed to Member Nations in the form of a cash surplus.

What happened in 1986-87? We had a healthy SRA? We began the biennia with US\$21.8 million. Then currency losses of US\$31.2 million. Mr Chairman, let us recall that during the biennium there were US\$31.2 million of currency losses, when the Director-General was forced - but with the Council's agreement - to make programme cuts of US\$25 million and to bear unbudgeted extra costs. Imagine how much more the programme would have been cut if the Special Reserve Account could not have been charged the currency losses. Of the US\$31 million of currency losses we could only charge 21.8 million and the rest had to be charged to the General Fund.

That brings me to the beginning of 1988, or rather the Conference of 1987, which faced the fact that the Special Reserve Account had no resources. We were beginning a new biennium with all the problems that we had to handle,

and that was when the Director-General proposed - yes, he did propose - he took the initiative to propose according to the established and earlier Conference Resolutions - he took the initiative to propose that there be a special assessment but as you have pointed out, this was a distinctive initiative and action on which the Conference decided.

Secondly, there was nothing automatic about this assessment or its level. It was the judgement of the Director-General to request a special assessment of US\$12 million, not US\$24.6 million which would have been the authorized level of the SRA. You might say he could have asked for that. The SRA needed to be full at the beginning of the biennium but, no it was his political judgement and his consideration of the burden on Member Nations that made him decide to limit the request to US\$12 million.

That biennium, I am glad to say, we are all glad to say had currency gains again of 10.8 million. So, we began the biennium 1990-91 with US\$19 million in the SRA. That is far from its authorized level. The authorized level would have warranted the SRA being at US\$28.4 million, and you might say that the Director-General could have asked for another assessment then, but he did not, for reasons which you should appreciate.

Then, in that biennium of 1990-1991, we had currency losses again of over US\$25 million. Mr Chairman, at the same time, as you know from the audited accounts which you have approved, US\$21 million of unbudgeted costs were covered through programme cuts.

What would have happened if we had not had the SRA? We would have to cover US\$21 million of unbudgeted costs and US\$25 + million of currency losses through more programme cuts. If this is the sort of programme implementation you want, Mr Chairman, the Secretariat is of course in the hands of Conference; but let me say from the point of view of the Secretariat - and I hope I speak for all my colleagues - it would be a pretty miserable programme implementation.

Mr Chairman, I hope this makes it clear that the provisions of the Special Reserve Account, and there are three Resolutions which do not have any time limits; these are the three Resolutions, Resolution 27/77 updated through Resolution 13/81 and supplemented by Conference Resolution 17/89. These three Resolutions have no time limit. The two Resolutions which dealt with the special assessments on the other hand, are specific to one action and to one biennium, and those two Resolutions are C 17/87 and C 16/91.

Mr Chairman, having covered the continuing purposes and the continuing operations of the Special Reserve Account, let me deal with another question which has been put, and that is in relation to a recommendation quoted from the report of the Joint Inspection Unit. The argument was used that this recommendation was to the effect that there should be no Special Reserve Account, or no Special Account. Mr Chairman, I have listened very carefully because I have been involved in dealing with the JIU Inspector in this matter. Let me say, it was an Inspector for whom I have the greatest respect, Inspector Schumm of Germany, who used to be a former member of the Finance Committee, and is well known to many of you.

The report of Inspector Schumm which was considered by the Programme and Finance Committees 1990, submitted to the Council, and this is a section on Reserve Accounts and Funds: "In these circumstances whatever their forms and

sources, all special reserve accounts and funds for unforeseen expenditure in the Regular Budget should be considered in the context of each agency's circumstances" - considered in the context of each agency's circumstances - "and limited to a minimum in organizations where alternative mechanisms such as supplementary estimates are readily available". Let me add there that FAO has no possibility - the Director-General has no possibility - of requesting supplementary estimates since our Conference meets only on a biennial basis.

The report continues: "or whose budgets include budgetary lines to cover unanticipated additional costs". Mr Chairman, I would love you to authorize us to include in the Director-General's budgetary proposals a line to cover unanticipated costs. You give me a hard enough time in defending the modest cost increase estimates which we are obliged to include.

The paragraph goes on: "The establishment of reserve funds and accounts is closely related to other facilities such as working capital funds, surpluses and external borrowings as measures to deal with cash shortfalls. Nevertheless, it is clear that the use of these funds and accounts depends largely on the full and timely payment of assessed contributions by Member States. If they fulfil their financial obligations the need for such funds and accounts would be very limited". This last point has certainly been repeated and reflected in your debate. Mr Chairman, Inspector Schumm's analysis of this is matched by his recommendation 7 related to the same subject where he says: "The use of reserve accounts and reserve funds should, in pace with restoring the viability, be reduced and gradually eliminated so that the Organizations should restrict themselves in resources provided in the approved budget. In case of absolute necessity, a supplementary budget or, where this is not feasible, a borrowing facility should be used as a last resort". Good!

Mr Chairman, are we really saying, - and I would say on the basis of this sort of analysis - (A) that if we do not have a special reserve account you really would prefer the Director-General to go out and borrow every time the resources of the Capital Working Fund are not adequate? (B) When the currency losses cannot be coped with by budgetary reductions and (C) when there are unbudgeted costs which would not permit us to implement the Programme of Work within the level approved? I hardly think so, Mr Chairman. It seems to me from all the debates which have taken place in all the earlier years, in relation to the Special Reserve Accounts, that the very existence of the Special Reserve Account, in fact, permits the management of this Organization to avoid borrowing except as a very last resort.

You would see much more the need for external borrowing if we did have the facility of the Special Reserve Account.

Mr Chairman, the last point I would like to deal with is the question of the burden of the Special Reserve Accounts that once the Special Reserve Account exists, once it operates in a normal way, that is to say with credits of favourable exchange transactions, charges of adverse exchange transactions, the need for special assessment is really most unusual and that is why it is not an automatic part of the provision which is suggested to you. It is a possibility which is indicated as one requiring a specific proposal to be made by the Director-General to the Conference and to be decided on each occasion on its merits and for the level required.

I hope that between us Mr Hjort and I have given you some satisfaction in response to the numerous questions which were raised. Like him, I am, of course ready to provide more information if desired but I thank you for giving me the time that you have.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci à M. Shah pour sa longue réponse qui aura certainement éclairé le Conseil. Je ferai remarquer que j'ai veillé en toute impartialité à présider ce débat de manière sereine. Le point a été examiné avec beaucoup de sérieux par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui a recommandé que le document qu'il a mis au point soit présenté à la prochaine session de la Conférence pour adoption en bonne et due forme, comme il est mentionné au paragraphe 17. Deux membres ont formulé des réserves mais ont reconnu que du point de vue juridique et constitutionnel les amendements étaient présentés sous la forme voulue et qu'ils étaient conformes aux Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation. Or, nous avons à nous prononcer uniquement sur cet aspect juridique.

Je pense que nous avons consacré un temps suffisamment long à l'examen de la proposition d'un projet de résolution qui sera soumis à la Conférence en novembre 1993. Nous ne faisons que transmettre le projet, juridiquement mis au point par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques à la Conférence et nous avons un an pour aboutir à un consensus sur les points qui pourraient encore demeurer litigieux aux yeux de certains.

Nous devons maintenant conclure nos débats. J'ai noté toutes les positions et je répète ce que j'ai déjà dit clairement, à savoir qu'en cette matière il n'y aura ni vainqueur ni vaincu puisqu'il s'agit uniquement de transmettre à la Conférence un projet de résolution qui a été longuement examiné par le Comité financier et par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Deux formules s'offrent à nous: ou bien vous émettez un avis positif et nous transmettons à la Conférence ce projet de résolution tel qu'il figure dans l'appendice 1 du rapport de la 59ème session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques dans le document CL 102/15; ou bien, ceux qui ont émis un avis négatif sur le fond - et non pas sur la forme juridique -, peuvent se prononcer par un vote, s'ils le désirent. En effet, nous parlons depuis suffisamment longtemps de cette question sur laquelle, je pense, il est temps de conclure, étant entendu que la transmission du projet de résolution dont la Conférence aura à délibérer, vous laisse toute liberté pour l'avenir et toute possibilité de trouver un consensus.

Nous ne pouvons pas continuer à refuser une opération de simple nettoyage, de cleaning de nos textes, étant entendu que nous ne nous prononçons pas sur le fond, puisque la Conférence, à trois reprises, s'est déjà prononcée et qu'en toute hypothèse le Fonds de réserve spécial existera jusqu'au jour où la Conférence prendra une autre décision. Il ne s'agit pas de décisions temporaires, il s'agit de décisions permanentes.

Je suis dans les mains du Conseil. Pour conclure, nous avons la possibilité de procéder à un vote, suivant les dispositions de l'article 12 du Règlement général, avec trois possibilités: vote à main levée, vote par appel nominal ou vote secret pour lequel une majorité de 2/3 est requise. Le vote par appel nominal peut avoir lieu à la demande d'un seul délégué. S'il n'y a pas de demandes, je proposerais de vous prononcer par vote à main levée, comme cela

a déjà été fait à propos du complément de salaire pour frais de représentation pour les Sous-Directeurs général. Il s'agirait d'un vote dont la simple portée est de transmettre le projet de résolution à la Conférence.

**Iván MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia):** Yo he entendido que hay otra alternativa. Varios países propusimos que se postergara la definición de este tema para otra reunión del Consejo, en la búsqueda de un consenso. No puede pasar desapercibida esa solicitud que fue hecha aquí, reiteradamente, por varias delegaciones, en un tiempo oportuno.

Nos han dicho de manera repetida y clara que hay tres resoluciones vigentes, que no tienen límite de tiempo y que sustentan la Cuenta Especial de Reserva. Esa cuenta está funcionando y no va a dejar de funcionar. Nosotros no vemos la razón para que se insista aquí en una votación que puede traer consecuencias graves para una Organización que vive de la voluntad política de sus miembros, de la unidad, del consenso, del acuerdo. Esta Organización está hecha por los países que la conforman, por la voluntad de esos países. El éxito de esta Organización no depende de la buena voluntad de la Secretaría, depende de la buena voluntad de los gobiernos que la conforman y esos gobiernos no están de acuerdo hoy sobre una materia muy delicada, que tiene que ver con el manejo de recursos y con la magnitud misma de las aportaciones de los Estados Miembros a la Organización.

Insistimos, Sr. Presidente, con todo respeto y de la manera más amable, en que se someta aquí, primero, a decisión, una proposición sustitutiva, que en todas las organizaciones colegiadas del mundo tiene preeminencia sobre las proposiciones originales, una proposición sustitutiva de que se postergue para otra oportunidad la definición de este tema, mientras se buscan acuerdos y mientras se busca un consenso para que esta Organización no salga resentida de un acto improvisado y prematuro y tal vez motivado por razones emocionales que desconozco, pero que afloran cuando se ve la manera temperamental en que se comportan algunas personas que tienen mucha importancia en la conducción de esta reunión.

Solicito, entonces, que primero se decida sobre la posibilidad de postergar esta decisión.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je ne relèverai pas les commentaires que vous avez faits dans la dernière partie de votre exposé.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Non seulement aujourd'hui mais au cours des dernières sessions, et depuis quelques temps, nous discutons assez longuement de cette question et nous pensons que le moment est peut-être venu de trancher.

Je ne vous cache pas que nous avons écouté les débats tout au long de cet après-midi, et nous sommes en mesure de dire que presque la moitié - je dis bien presque la moitié - des Membres du Conseil ont apporté sinon un soutien clair aux propositions qui figurent dans le document, du moins à ce que cette question soit soumise à l'examen de la Conférence pour décision. Au moins le tiers des Membres du Conseil, ou presque le tiers des Membres du Conseil, ont par contre exprimé des réserves quant à l'existence même de ce Compte de réserve spécial, quand il n'y a pas eu d'opposition très ferme.



La proposition qui vient d'être faite que cette question soit reportée à un examen ultérieur, je ne pense pas que cette proposition ait été reprise par un grand nombre de délégués au cours de la séance de cet après-midi et nous ne pensons pas véritablement que si nous décidons de reporter la décision, des faits nouveaux, des informations extraordinaires interviendront au cours de l'année prochaine qui nous feront changer d'avis sur la matière.

Vous avez parlé de vote, Monsieur le Président. Peut-être serons-nous amenés, comme vous l'avez dit, à voter sur cette question, à nous prononcer clairement sur cette question. Mais je ne sais pas si toutes les positions qui seront clairement exprimées dans le rapport de ce Conseil, peuvent permettre aux pays qui ont des réserves, ou sinon des réserves une opposition ferme, d'accepter la proposition que vous avez faite préalablement à celle du vote, que la question soit transmise à la Conférence pour décision. Cela revient à cela. S'il n'y a pas d'opposition à ce que le débat soit fidèlement reflété dans le rapport de cette session, c'est dire que le Conseil décide de transmettre ces questions à la Conférence pour décision, ce qui sous-entend clairement que le Conseil n'a pas tranché. S'il y a une opposition à cette proposition, alors nous passons au vote.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je rappelle que le Conseil n'a pas à trancher. Le Conseil se prononce sur le point de transmettre un projet de résolution avec les appréciations et les commentaires financiers voulus de façon à faire une opération de mise à jour du Règlement financier.

Je vois que le Liban, les Etats-Unis, la France, l'Inde demandent la parole. Je voudrais éviter que l'on rouvre un long débat.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** J'appuie ce qui vient d'être dit par mon ami du Maroc, parce que j'estime que nous avons suffisamment discuté de cette question. Il y a eu des prises de position nombreuses et contradictoires, et si nous ajournons cette question à la prochaine session du Conseil nous devons aborder cette question et la discuter à nouveau. C'est pourquoi, je propose que l'on procède au vote au cours de cette séance.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** Allow me to commend to your attention and to all the Members of Council the wise parliamentary advice that we have received from the distinguished representative of Colombia.

Moreover, Sir, the first alternative posed by our distinguished friend from Morocco has particular appeal in that both suggest that, given the absence of a consensus, which we consider very valuable, essential in fact, in order to reach the key constitutional and fiscal decisions for this Organization, and given the fact that you have pointed out, Mr Chairman, yourself, that there remains a full year before this mail needs to reach the addressee, why do we not remand this matter to the respective Committees for further exploration and discussion in the spirit of consensus which motivates us all?

Therefore, the United States would like to support the idea put forward by our distinguished colleagues of postponing discussion on this matter, so that we may explore it further after the next sessions of Committees and of the next Council, well before the next Conference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La proposition du très honorable représentant de la Colombie est très différente.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Je pense que la délégation française soutiendra la proposition colombienne. Je crains en effet que des malentendus qui resteraient sur cette question, avant la prochaine Conférence, ne compliquent le travail de reconstitution qui semble nécessaire du Fonds de réserve spécial. Je pense qu'un consensus est nécessaire, particulièrement parmi les principaux contributeurs. Donc, je crois que la remarque de notre collègue colombien est la bonne.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La remarque consiste à demander que l'on vote pour savoir si on va voter.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

**Iván MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia):** Sr. Presidente, es una cuestión de orden, usted le ha dado una interpretación equivocada a mis palabras y quiero repetirlas brevemente con la mayor claridad.

He dicho que varios países hemos solicitado que se postergue la discusión y la decisión de este tema para otra oportunidad, en la búsqueda de acuerdo y consenso.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I do not wish to take up much time. However, I should like to submit to the members of the Council that there has been a long debate; there have been objections and reservations expressed by practically all the members who have participated in the debate. On the other hand, there has equally been categoric support for the proposal.

I must thank Mr Hjort and Mr Shah. I myself had some doubts and some clarifications to be sought, and I voiced one question when I intervened on Agenda Item 13. Today I have had the answer. I wish the floor had been given to Mr Shah to begin with. That would definitely have facilitated the contributions made by members and would have clarified the doubts which were lurking in the minds of members.

There are now three suggestions which have been made. One is to put the matter to a vote. Another is to postpone it. The third suggestion, from my distinguished friend from Morocco, is to forward this proposal to the Conference after recording the views expressed by the members.

I do not want to make your task more difficult, Mr Chairman, but I have another suggestion, which is that, in view of the clarification given by Mr Shah and Mr Hjort, it seems to me that all those present in this Council may be thinking that the reservations which they had to begin with have been so ably and clearly explained that they may now be thinking differently from how they were thinking to begin with. My suggestion now is that we should discuss this matter again and take the opinions of the members who had

reservations as to whether they still have reservations after having listened to Mr Hjort and Mr Shah, who have so ably explained the merits of the Special Reserve Account.

It seems to me that it may be a solution not only for FAO but for a system-wide step in other organizations as well, and maybe for the United Nations itself, if this kind of proposal be adopted.

To come back to my suggestion, it is that when we assemble tomorrow you should ascertain the opinions of members and maybe we shall then be able to forward this Resolution to the Conference with a consensus.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie vivement l'Ambassadeur de l'Inde de sa proposition. Je crois que cette proposition est empreinte d'une grande sagesse.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Solamente quería esclarecer un punto que parece que en la mente de algunos delegados se ha confundido.

Lo que se llama aquí la proposición de Colombia es la proposición del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, expresada por quien habla, en su carácter de Presidente de ese Grupo y que disciplinadamente respetó la opinión de la mayoría para cumplir su cometido como Presidente y expresarlo aquí. No hay tal diferencia, creo que esa proposición de Colombia es la proposición del GRULAC y así debería ser considerada y anotada en el debate.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous n'allons pas nous compter pour savoir qui représente qui. J'ai entendu des avis du Groupe latino-américain, de Trinidad y Tobago, de Cuba. Les avis étaient parfois partagés. Nous avons été saisis d'une suggestion de l'Ambassadeur de l'Inde. Je vous proposerai de la retenir.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Recalling that the proposal before you arises from the Director-General himself, having heard the debate which has been under way this afternoon, the Director-General proposes that the proposal be withdrawn.

**LE PRESIDENT:** J'ai enregistré cette déclaration.

Nous allons passer au point suivant de notre ordre du jour. Nous n'avons pas épuisé le point 20 qui concerne l'ensemble des questions concernant le Comité constitutionnel et juridique.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** A propos de la déclaration que vient de faire le Directeur général adjoint, nous aimerions qu'elle soit clarifiée. Nous sommes saisis d'une question que nous avons longuement étudiée. Il y a un rapport du Comité financier et un rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. J'aimerais donc connaître la portée exacte de cette déclaration parce que je ne l'ai pas très bien saisie.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le Directeur général adjoint a dit qu'à ce stade, le Directeur général retirait sa proposition; ce qui ne veut pas dire que, demain, on ne puisse pas la réexaminer. Il est clair que le débat a pris une ampleur beaucoup trop importante par rapport à ce qui était demandé, à savoir la simple transmission d'un projet.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I reaffirm that the proposal originated from the Director-General. In withdrawing the proposal, the Director-General obviously retains the right to take a decision to move forward with the matter or not at a subsequent date. It is a proposal of the Director-General and he has at this point withdrawn it. In doing so, he wishes to express appreciation for the work of the Finance Committee, of the CCLM and of all the others who have participated in bringing what I previously described as a very simple matter forward to the body. In view of the circumstances, it has been withdrawn. The Director-General, of course, reserves his right to decide on a subsequent course of action.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La réponse de M. Hjort est très claire. Le point est actuellement retiré, ce qui ne veut pas dire que, dans l'avenir, nous ne pourrions pas le réexaminer. Il s'agit d'un point mineur qui a pris une extension imprévue.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Monsieur le Président, vous venez de dire que ce point est retiré. De quoi? De l'ordre du jour?

Nous respectons la déclaration qui vient d'être faite par le Directeur général adjoint et nous respectons la décision du Directeur général de revenir sur la proposition qu'il avait faite au Comité financier et, par la suite, au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

La délégation du Maroc, quant à elle, s'est longuement penchée sur cette question, d'abord à titre de membre du Comité financier, ensuite, au cours de ce débat, en tant que membre du Conseil. Nous estimons que cette question doit être traitée par le Conseil. Nous avons commencé à en discuter mais nous n'avons pas pris de décision. Le Président du Groupe africain a bien précisé quelle était notre position. Nous continuons à penser que ces amendements doivent être transmis à la Conférence, pour décision.

Je voudrais que notre déclaration soit bien comprise et qu'elle soit insérée au procès-verbal.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Cette déclaration est très claire.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I can be very brief. I was still on your list before the Deputy Director-General announced the decision of the Director-General so I was still thinking about my support for the Colombian proposal to postpone the matter. However, these two things now go together. So we will postpone the matter, unless we support the proposal of our Indian colleague that we should come back to this item tomorrow. Perhaps we could ask the Director-General to be present to explain his decision so as to have the possibility of contact on that point.

**LE PRESIDENT:** M. Hjort a adopté une position très claire. Cela ne veut pas dire que, demain, après-demain ou ultérieurement, nous ne reviendrons pas sur le sujet. Au stade actuel des choses, je clos la question, nous passons à une question qui entre dans le cadre des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Il s'agit d'une question qui a été soulevée lors de notre première séance, lundi dernier, et qui se situe parfaitement dans ce cadre.

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**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** Following the statement that we made on 9 November on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I wish to make the following further statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The European Community and its Member States, recalling Resolution A/47/1 of the United Nations General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Security Council of 19 September 1992, S/RES/777, that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the United Nations and that it shall not participate in the work of the General Assembly, consider that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) cannot continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in FAO; further consider that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the Organization if it so chooses; request this Council to decide that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) shall not participate further in the work of the FAO Council or its subsidiary bodies.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** The United States fully supports the statement of the European Community as just delivered by our distinguished colleague from the United Kingdom.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Comme il s'agit d'une proposition ayant une incidence juridique, je donne la parole au Conseiller juridique.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Yugoslavia, which is a Member Nation of FAO, has been invited as an Observer to this session of the Council. I recognize that this is a sensitive political matter, the matter which has been raised by the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom. It is a sensitive political matter now under discussion in the United Nations, on which FAO would normally follow the line set by the United Nations.

The United Nations position is set out in General Assembly Resolution 47/1, entitled "Recommendation of the Security Council of 19 September 1992". In that Resolution the General Assembly, and I quote "considers that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) cannot continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations, and therefore decides that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

(Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the United Nations and that it shall not participate in the work of the General Assembly".

In its Resolution, the General Assembly also took note of the intention of the Security Council to consider the matter again before the end of the main part of the 47th Session of the General Assembly.

While the exact import of the Resolution and the consequences that should be derived from it are not entirely clear from the face of the Resolution, I have been informed by the Secretariat of the United Nations that their understanding regarding the practical consequences of the Resolution are as follows:

1. While the General Assembly Resolution has stated unequivocally that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), cannot automatically continue the membership of the former Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations and that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the United Nations, the only practical consequence that the Resolution draws is that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) shall not participate in the work of the General Assembly.

2. Representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) can no longer participate in the work of the General Assembly, its subsidiary organs, nor in conferences and meetings convened by it.

3. The Resolution neither terminates nor suspends Yugoslavia's membership in the Organization; consequently - and there are three consequences: (a) The seat and nameplate remain as before, but in assembly bodies representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) cannot sit behind the sign "Yugoslavia". In addition Yugoslav missions of the United Nations Headquarters and offices may continue to function and may receive and circulate certain documents. At Headquarters the Secretariat continues to fly the flag of the old Yugoslavia as it is the last flag of Yugoslavia used by the Secretariat, (b) The Resolution does not take away the right of Yugoslavia to participate in the work of organs other than Assembly bodies, (c) The admission of the United Nations of a new Yugoslavia under Article 4 of the Charter will terminate this situation.

Resolution 47/1 applies directly only to the United Nations and is not legally binding on the specialized and related agencies.

I have quoted from the advice given to me, and circulated to all the specialized Agencies by the Legal Counsel of the United Nations.

Finally, I should like to make a short, but I think important, observation on the action being proposed to the Council today. The Director-General recognizes that this is essentially a political matter and that the Council today is being asked to take essentially a political decision, following the precedent of the United Nations. It is an extra-legal matter in that there is no clear basis in the Constitution for the action that may be taken by the Council today, the cogency of which derives from an exceptional and unprecedented political situation and from the political will of the Member Nations represented in the Council. Should the Council decide to take the action proposed today, it should be seen as a decision that does not set a precedent for FAO and cannot, of course, prejudge any questions of

membership, which are essentially questions for the Conference itself to decide.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous sommes saisis d'une proposition qui est la suivante: To decide that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) shall not participate further in the work of the FAO Council or its subsidiary bodies. Voilà la proposition telle qu'elle a été faite. La Résolution adoptée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a la même portée.

**Joseph MHELLA (Tanzania):** My delegation would like to state that we have no direction from our capital to decide on this matter.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** La delegación de Brasil desea aclarar que se abstiene en cuanto a esta decisión tomada por el Consejo de la FAO.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** As with the delegation of Tanzania, I have no particular instruction on this matter.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I have a similar situation. I should like to abstain purely on the basis that I had no instructions from my capital.

**Haruo ISHII (Japan):** I am in a similar situation as Australia.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Yo me uno a lo expresado por las distinguidas representaciones de Tanzania y Trinidad y Tabago. Mi delegación no tiene instrucciones al respecto.

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** We would like to state that we support the United Kingdom proposal.

**Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland):** I should also like to state, as have other delegations, that my delegation has no specific instructions on this issue and that is why, solely because of procedural reasons, we would abstain from taking this stance on this matter at this stage.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** The Philippine delegation cannot take any position on this issue and has still to receive instructions from our home Government.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je propose, avant de conclure, de laisser la possibilité aux membres du Conseil de recevoir des instructions de leur Gouvernement. Nous avons entendu la proposition qui a été faite. Je propose donc de remettre à demain ou à vendredi la décision du Conseil afin de vous permettre de prendre les contacts voulus.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Esto fue un asunto que se planteó aquí inesperadamente. Yo tengo que decir que las comunicaciones con mi país están muy difíciles y que yo mañana no puedo tener una respuesta.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais simplement dire que ce point a été abordé lors de la première séance du Conseil, lundi dernier; des déclarations ont été faites, le Conseil n'a rien décidé mais il a pris acte. Compte tenu du fait que le débat a été ouvert sans objections de la part du Conseil, en tant que Président et de manière totalement impartiale, j'ai estimé que la proposition du Royaume-Uni pouvait être faite dans le cadre de l'examen du point 20 de l'ordre du jour. Mais nous reportons ce point pour permettre à un certain nombre de pays de se prononcer.

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

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

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

17. Remuneration and Conditions of Service of Staff (continued)

17. Rémunération et conditions d'emploi du personnel (suite)

17. Remuneración y condiciones de servicio del personal (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il nous reste également à poursuivre l'examen du point important que nous avons commencé à voir hier, concernant les questions de personnel.

Des contacts ont déjà eu lieu à propos de ce point 17. Je viens d'être saisi d'une demande d'intervention de la Yougoslavie, observateur à ce stade. C'est en effet une assez délicate question puisqu'il s'agit de la représentation de la Serbie Monténégro et de la succession de l'ex-Yougoslavie. C'est une question qui relève de la compétence du Conseil et non pas des observateurs. Par conséquent, je ne passerai pas la parole au représentant de la Yougoslavie.

Je vous signale que nous examinerons demain le point 17 en essayant de conclure sur les rémunérations et conditions de service du personnel et ensuite les points 21, 22 et 23.

J'espère que nous pourrions conclure dans la matinée de façon à disposer d'une après-midi libre comme cela avait été prévu.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Chile):** No intento detener lo que ha sido una tarde bastante ágil, pero desearía informar sobre aquellas conversaciones que usted me encargara y el Comité aceptara ayer, en relación al tema sobre remuneraciones y condiciones de empleo del personal.

Las conversaciones nos han llevado a la elaboración de un anteproyecto de resolución que desearíamos con su venia, Sr. Presidente, y la autorización respectiva del Consejo entregarlo al Sr. Tedesco para que fuera distribuido a las delegaciones, ya que están en todos los idiomas oficiales y pudieran tomar conocimiento. Se trata de un tema que ha sido elaborado cuidadosamente,



reviste una enorme importancia y reitero este punto y esperamos mañana poder en algún momento después de escuchar las opiniones de todos ustedes arribar a alguna conclusión y un consenso al respecto. Por lo tanto, dejo en poder de usted, Presidente, y la amabilidad de la Secretaría los ejemplares respectivos para retomar este tema más adelante.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quisiera agradecer mucho al distinguido representante de Chile por todo el trabajo que ha hecho hoy día como Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos y también para tratar de conseguir un acuerdo a propósito de este punto tan importante de las condiciones de trabajo del personal. De la rúbrica 17, tenemos un anteproyecto que podría ser distribuido a todos los Miembros del Consejo en los idiomas oficiales, o sea: castellano, francés, inglés, árabe y chino también. Desearíamos concluir mañana, y ojalá que el Sr. Fernández Illanes esté presente para explicarnos un poquito el tema con el Director del personal de la FAO.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.





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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 102/PV/17

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102° período de sesiones

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
17ª SESION PLENARIA  
(19 November 1992)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

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

Se abre la 17ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

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

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)
- 20. Reports of the Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (continued)
- 20. Rapports des cinquante-huitième et cinquante-neuvième sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (suite)
- 20. Informes de los periodos de sesiones 58 y 59 del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (continuación)
- 20.3 Amendment of the FAO Financial Regulations to Incorporate the Provisions of Relevant Conference Resolutions Regarding the Special Reserve Account (continued)
- 20.3 Amendement tendant à incorporer dans le Règlement financier les dispositions des résolutions pertinentes de la Conférence concernant le Compte de réserve spécial (suite)
- 20.3 Enmienda del Reglamento Financiero de la FAO para incorporar las disposiciones de las correspondientes resoluciones de la Conferencia relativas a la Cuenta Especial de Reserva (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare ouverte la dix-septième séance pionnière de notre Conseil.

Je voudrais en début de cette séance, qui est normalement une des dernières séances de notre Conseil, vous faire une très brève communication.

J'ai eu hier un certain nombre de contacts avec des membres du Conseil au sujet d'un point de droit concernant le point 20 que nous avons examiné longuement hier, et je voudrais vous signaler les raisons pour lesquelles nous avons exprimé qu'il y avait lieu de suspendre la discussion qui fut parfois quelque peu difficile en ce qui concerne le Compte de réserve spécial.

Je me suis permis, et c'était mon devoir de le faire, d'attirer à plusieurs reprises, et peut-être trop souvent mais c'était nécessaire, l'attention des membres du Conseil sur le fait que ce qui était demandé au Conseil était la traduction dans le règlement financier de résolutions qui avaient été adoptées par la Conférence. On a parlé du terme d'institutionnalisation. Le règlement financier n'est pas un monument. Le règlement financier se transforme exactement suivant la même procédure et dans les mêmes conditions qu'une résolution de la Conférence, et il n'était pas question d'institutionnaliser.

Nous avons trois résolutions de la Conférence: la Résolution C 27/77, la Résolution C 13/81 et C 17/89. Les deux autres résolutions étaient des résolutions sur la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial.

J'ai essayé d'éviter le dérapage d'une discussion qui était uniquement juridique, suite à l'examen qui avait été fait par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles, en évitant de discuter une question qui n'était pas soumise à l'attention du Conseil et qu'aucun membre du Conseil n'avait demandé de discuter suivant la procédure prévue par le Règlement. On a en fait glissé de la discussion juridique à une discussion de fond sur la nécessité de maintenir ou de ne pas maintenir ce Fonds de réserve spécial. Ce n'était pas à l'ordre du jour. Les avis ont été extrêmement divergents. On a parlé de recherche d'un consensus; je ne sais pas de quel consensus il s'agissait,

puisque c'est une question juridique et non pas une question de fond, puisque la Résolution 27/77 existe toujours, que le fonds existe depuis 15 ans, et que cette résolution de la Conférence fut adoptée par consensus. Sur le plan juridique, on ne retire pas un point de l'ordre du jour. Il aurait été profondément regrettable de se compter dans l'équivoque et pas dans la clarté, de voter sans savoir sur quoi on votait. On serait arrivé à voter sur les quatre propositions qui ont été faites sans savoir s'il s'agissait d'une appréciation concernant l'existence du Fonds de réserve spécial ou de la transposition dans le Règlement financier de ce Compte de réserve spécial.

Après avoir entendu le Directeur général adjoint et l'avis du Secrétariat, j'ai estimé devoir suspendre la discussion sur ce point. Il est clair que dans l'avenir le point qui a été inscrit à l'ordre du jour pourra être débattu et pourra faire l'objet de discussions ultérieures notamment, si nécessaire, au Comité des finances et au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. C'est une question qui reste ouverte. Je crois qu'elle restera ouverte encore très longtemps. Mais je ne voulais à aucun prix qu'il y ait ni vainqueur ni vaincu, parce que le débat ne portait pas sur ce point. Comme dans l'ancienne Rome, savoir s'il fallait sacrifier le gladiateur blessé n'était pas mon problème, je n'étais pas dans l'arène. J'ai essayé d'être le plus impartial possible. Les allusions à la façon dont je préside le Conseil relèvent de la liberté de tous les Etats Membres. J'essaie de rester totalement impartial et j'accepte les critiques bien volontiers dans la mesure où elles s'adressent à ma personne. Ma personne est contestée et contestable. Ces critiques, je les entends depuis 1989; elles dureront jusqu'en 1993. En attendant, il faut essayer de mener les travaux du Conseil dans les meilleures conditions possibles. J'essaie de rester le plus impartial, le plus indépendant, le plus neutre possible. Mais hier, les avis étaient tellement différents qu'il était impossible d'arriver à un vote dans la clarté.

Le point a donc été reporté pour contacts ultérieurs, étant entendu que la résolution telle qu'elle existe, la 27/77, a créé le Fonds de réserve spécial, qu'il existe, mais que ce Fonds n'a pas pu, pour des motifs que vous connaissez, être coulé dans le Règlement financier qui n'est ni la Bible ni le Coran, qui n'est pas intangible et qui peut être modifié suivant une procédure telle qu'elle est prévue dans nos Textes fondamentaux.

Hier, en ce qui concerne le point 20, et à la demande du Royaume-Uni, nous avons abordé une question qui était délicate et qui a incontestablement des implications parce que nous avons toujours essayé d'éviter des débats politiques au sein de l'Organisation qui s'occupe des vastes problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Néanmoins, le problème est posé. Il a été posé à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Je crois que certains contacts ont encore lieu et je proposerai d'y revenir demain matin en début de séance. Il m'a été demandé de ne pas précipiter les choses et je crois que dans une atmosphère détendue nous pourrions, si vous marquez votre accord, remettre ce point à demain matin étant entendu que si certaines délégations désirent prendre la parole sur ce point maintenant, il leur est loisible de le faire. Mais il serait souhaitable de laisser la question en attente jusqu'à demain et de prendre les contacts voulus pour arriver à une formule la plus harmonieuse possible.

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

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

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

17. Remuneration and Conditions of Service of Staff (continued)

17. Rémunérations et conditions d'emploi du personnel (suite)

17. Remuneración y condiciones de servicio del personal (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il nous restait également, en dehors du point 20, le point 17, qui a fait l'objet d'un large débat. Il y a eu une présentation de la situation par la déléguée du personnel. Des contacts ont été pris à l'intervention du Dr. Samuel Illanes du Chili et je lui demanderai d'avoir la grande gentillesse de bien vouloir faire part aux membres du Conseil du résultat des différents contacts. Il serait souhaitable d'arriver à un large accord, même si certains ont quelques réticences ou n'ont pas suffisamment d'instructions pour se prononcer clairement. En fait, ce qui est demandé, sur la base d'un projet qui a été traduit dans toutes les langues de l'Organisation, c'est de soumettre aux gouvernements responsables et à la Cinquième Commission les préoccupations du Conseil en ce qui concerne le problème du personnel.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Chile):** Una vez más quiero solicitar su venia y pedir disculpas al Consejo, porque no podemos entregar en este preciso instante un proyecto de resolución absolutamente en limpio y acabado en todas sus partes.

Sin embargo, estamos muy cerca de ello. Tenemos un proyecto que ha sido circulado, tenemos asimismo otro con algunas modificaciones, que esperamos sean las últimas. Esperamos que éste pueda ser definitivamente adoptado por el Consejo. Una vez más solicitamos su indulgencia, para continuar estas conversaciones, y, como usted bien decía, alcanzar el ansiado consenso de todos. Respecto de esto soy muy optimista, estamos muy próximos a obtenerlo. Un poco más adelante, hacia la mitad de la mañana podremos entregarle a usted un nuevo proyecto definitivo, que espero cuente con el apoyo de todos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que podríamos seguir con el orden del día y después podríamos volver a examinar este punto, si todo el Consejo está de acuerdo.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** Thank you, Mr Chairman, and I would also like to thank very much my friend and colleague from Chile. I agree very much with what he says. I simply want to make a couple of points about the substantive Item on the Agenda and then I think agree with his procedural proposal which seems eminently sensible to me, if I may say so.

We very much agree that there is a problem. I will be as brief as I can about it. There is a problem and this Council agrees there is a problem and it is important to send a signal to the appropriate bodies in New York in some way to take forward a Resolution of that problem. Therefore, we can certainly agree with the rationale of this kind of draft.

I think we have three points of substance. The first one is that we want strongly to reiterate our support for alternative action within the common system. As I said on behalf of the European Community the other day, when this item came up, we believe that the common system is the right mechanism for taking this kind of action forward.

Secondly, we also believe strongly in the work of the ICSC and we want to see that work strengthened and continued.

Thirdly, what we do not want to do is, in spite of our agreement with all these concerns, here to anticipate the important work of the Fifth Committee.

Having announced those principles, we would very much like, with my Chilean friend, to come to some agreement on the draft. I have already suggested some comments to him and some amendments. If they can be taken on board and a clean draft produced during the course of the morning which finds general favour, then we are happy to go along with that.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je propose de suivre l'ordre du jour de la dix septième séance plénière. Si nous parvenons à examiner rapidement ces différents points, je suspendrai la séance jusqu'à 11 heures ou 11 h 30 et nous prendrons, à ce moment-là, le dernier point de l'ordre du jour. Cela permettrait de répondre aux préoccupations exprimées par le représentant du Royaume-Uni.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

21. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including (continued)

21. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment (suite)

21. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular (continuación)

21.1 Date for Nominations to the Office of Director-General

21.1 Date limite de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général

21.1 Fecha para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Director General

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons au point 21 de l'ordre du jour, qui comprend trois sous-points: 21.1 - Date limite de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général; 21.2 - Amendements aux statuts du Comité des pêches pour l'Atlantique Centre-Est; et 21.4 - Modifications de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier.

Je vous propose de commencer par le point 21.1, à savoir la date limite de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général. Vous êtes saisis, à ce sujet, du document CL 102/16, que se réfère au paragraphe 1 de l'article VII de l'Acte constitutif, qui prévoit que l'Organisation a un Directeur général nommé par la Conférence pour un mandat de six ans et qu'il est rééligible. Le mandat du Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, vient à expiration le 31 décembre 1993 et, conformément au Règlement général et à l'Acte constitutif, il appartient au Conseil de proposer des candidatures. Ces candidatures doivent nécessairement être présentées 30 jours avant la session du Conseil prévue à l'article XXV,2(c) du présent règlement.

Vous vous rappellerez que nous avons discuté de la date du prochain Conseil et qu'il a été proposé que la première session du Conseil en 1993 se tienne du 14 au 25 juin 1993. Il est indispensable, pour respecter l'article auquel je viens de faire allusion, que le Secrétariat transmette en temps voulu à l'ensemble des Etats Membres et Membres associés toutes les propositions de candidature, qui doivent être traduites dans toutes les langues de l'Organisation. Je crois qu'il y aura de nombreuses candidatures et le Secrétariat estime que ce travail nécessitera, au minimum, une vingtaine de jours.

La proposition que je fais est donc de fixer au 2 avril 1993, à 12 heures, la date limite de réception des candidatures. Je vous rappelle que la prochaine session du Conseil aura lieu le 14 juin et qu'en vertu du Règlement général il faut faire part des propositions de candidature dans un délai d'au moins 30 jours avant cette session, c'est-à-dire au plus tard le 14 mai. Le travail administratif pourrait donc être effectué entre le 2 et le 20 avril 1993.

Je vais donner la parole aux membres du Conseil qui désirent la prendre sur ce point.

**Walter VON DEN DRIESCH (Germany):** The German delegation agrees to that line of taking 2 April 1993 for the submission of nominations for the office of Director-General of the Organization, as indicated in document CL 102/16.

In this context Germany is of the opinion that the Council should soon envisage a broader discussion on the question of the duration of the term of office of the Director-General and thus his eligibility for reappointment.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** The matter under discussion is in principle a simple one. We have to observe the rules and, as a consequence, the proposed date of 2 April can be accepted by our delegation as well as 26 April as the date by which the Secretary-General should circulate nominations to all Member Nations and Associate Members.

Besides that, Mr Chairman, my delegation would also like to express at this moment a preference for remanding Article VII paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution concerning the eligibility of a Director-General of the Organization for reappointment.

**Saleh SADIQ OSMAN (Tanzania):** My delegation supports the proposal of the date of 2 April 1993 as the date by which nominations should be received by the Secretary-General and of the date of 26 April 1993 as the date by which the Secretary-General should circulate nominations to all Members and Associate Members.

**R. ALLEN (United Kingdom):** We, too, can agree the dates proposed, and we should like to support the statements made by Germany and the Netherlands.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** My delegation agrees to the proposal made in the document with regard to fixing the date of 2 April as the last date for filing



nominations. As far as the question of amending the Rules is concerned, I think we should follow the appropriate procedure for that purpose.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** The United States concurs in setting the dates of 2 April and 26 April respectively for the submission of nominations and their circulation by the Secretariat. In addition, the United States delegation has listened with interest and understanding to the representations made by Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and India concerning questions of the term of service of the Director-General.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** My delegation would like to support the date proposed for the submission of nominations, i.e., 2 April 1993, and the date for circulation, i.e., 26 April 1993. In this connection, my delegation would like to support the proposal made by my Indian colleague that any question of amendment of the Rules should be dealt with in the appropriate manner.

**Ms Maria GÁLVÖLGYI (Hungary):** My delegation agrees with the dates of 2 April and 26 April respectively. At the same time, the Hungarian delegation would like to support the proposals made by Germany and the Netherlands.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** A l'instar des autres délégations, nous souhaitons marquer notre accord sur les deux dates qui nous sont proposées, à savoir celle du 2 avril 1993 comme date limite de réception des propositions de candidatures et celle du 26 avril 1993 comme date limite à laquelle le Secrétaire général devra avoir fait part des candidatures aux Etats Membres.

Nous pensons, nous aussi, que si des amendements doivent être apportés aux textes qui régissent l'Organisation - et plus précisément la durée du mandat du Directeur général - la procédure à suivre doit être rigoureusement respectée afin qu'au terme de l'exercice qui pourrait être engagé, nous puissions voir dans quelle mesure ces amendements peuvent recevoir notre assentiment.

Nous tenons donc à dire à ceux qui auraient l'intention de présenter des amendements qu'ils doivent absolument observer rigoureusement la procédure indiquée en pareille circonstance.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Estamos de acuerdo, Sr. Presidente, con la propuesta contenida en el documento CL 102/16 y estimamos que cualquier otra propuesta de modificación a los reglamentos no es materia de discusión en este momento.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je voudrais simplement appuyer la déclaration qui vient d'être faite par le représentant du Mexique.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Solamente, Sr. Presidente, para apoyar lo que está presentado en el orden del día y apoyar la intervención del representante de México.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I think the Rules relating to nominations for the office of Director-General are set out very clearly in the document before you and there is no need for me to go into that particular question. However, a question has arisen during the course of the debate from the distinguished delegate of India to which other delegations have referred, regarding additional recommendations being made, or points of view being put, regarding a limit to the term of office of the Director-General. I would merely point out that the Agenda Item is the "Date for Nominations to the Office of the Director-General" and does not include other matters such as the length of term of the office of the Director-General. I think that matter is outside the scope of the present Agenda Item and could in fact only be discussed under a new Agenda Item placed on the Agenda which would require a two-thirds majority of the members of the Council. I hope that clarifies the situation.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Tous les membres du Conseil savent quelles sont les modalités de proposition d'amendement à l'Acte constitutif, tel que prévu à l'article XX de celui-ci.

Je crois qu'il y a un large accord, parmi les membres du Conseil, sur les deux dates proposées, à savoir le 2 et le 26 avril 1993, étant entendu que, le 2 avril, le Secrétariat de la FAO aura entre les mains tous les documents à traduire afin de pouvoir les envoyer le plus rapidement possible à tous les Membres de la FAO.

Je voudrais simplement dire, pour information, que j'ai toujours été très frappé par la formule du serment que devra prêter le futur Directeur général. Il serait peut-être utile pour tous les candidats d'y réfléchir sérieusement.

21.2 Amendments of Statutes of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)

21.2 Amendements aux statuts du Comité des pêches pour l'Atlantique Centre-Est (COPACE)

21.2 Enmiendas a los Estatutos del Comité de Pesca para el Atlántico Centro-oriental (CPACO)

Ce point traite des amendements aux statuts du Comité des pêches pour l'Atlantique Centre-Est (COPACE). Vous êtes saisis du document CL 102/3, qui contient le mandat du Comité des pêches pour l'Atlantique Centre-Est, Comité qui a été créé par la Résolution 1/48 adoptée par le Conseil à sa quarante-huitième session de juin 1967.

A sa douzième session, qui s'est tenue à Accra, au Ghana, du 27 avril au 1er mai 1992, ce Comité a demandé que le Conseil autorise le Directeur général à amender le mandat dudit Comité, comme il est habilité à le faire.

Je crois qu'il y a sur ce point un large accord entre tous les Membres intéressés à ce Comité.

Je vais demander à M. Moore, qui est un grand spécialiste du domaine des pêches, de bien vouloir exposer ce point aux membres du Conseil.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** The document before you is document CL 102/3, Terms of Reference of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic. As you know, CECAF was established by the Director-General following the decision taken by the Council at its Forty-eighth Session in 1967 under Article VI, paragraph 2, of the FAO Constitution. Since then a number of developments have taken place in the fishery situation in West Africa, which led the Committee to believe that the time had come to bring its Terms of Reference up to date and to bring them into line with the new trends emerging in other regional fishery bodies.

The matter was discussed in the CECAF at its 12th session held in Accra, Ghana, from 27 April to 1 May 1992 and a series of proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference and mandate of the Committee were endorsed at that session and are now submitted to the Council for formal adoption in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 2, of the FAO Constitution.

The proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference are set out in the attachment to the document before you. Among the main points to which I would draw the Council's attention are the proposed new preamble defining the purpose of the Committee in terms of promoting optimum utilization of the living aquatic resources of the area, proper management of fisheries, etc. I would also draw your attention to paragraph (c) of the new draft terms of reference which would introduce proper management functions into the powers of the Committee and paragraph (f) dealing with the necessity of keeping under review the economic and social aspects of the marine fishing industry and aquaculture operations, as recommended by CECAF itself.

The revised Terms of Reference would also include new functions relating to the encouragement of the utilization of the most appropriate fishing craft, gear and techniques, promoting cooperation with other regional bodies dealing with fish processing, preservation and marketing, and a general clause enabling the Committee to deal with new contingencies and developments as they may arise.

Should the Council wish to adopt these amended Terms of Reference, it may then wish to authorize the Director-General to promulgate the proposed amendments to the terms of reference of the Committee.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Nos experts suivent avec beaucoup d'attention cette question depuis un certain temps; ils ont même participé à la réunion qui s'est déroulée à Accra au mois de mai dernier.

C'est pour ces raisons que nous considérons que le Conseil devrait autoriser le Directeur général à promulguer les amendements qu'il est suggéré d'apporter au COPACE en vertu de l'Article 6 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** La délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire marque son accord sur le projet d'amendement qui nous est proposé et dont le but est d'élargir le champ de compétence du Comité comme souhaité par les Etats Membres eux-mêmes.

**J.R. TURKSON (Ghana):** I should have been the first to speak and for others to support me because the meeting was held in Accra. Unfortunately, I shall be doing it the other way round.

Firstly, I have to express my gratitude to Mr Moore for making my work very simple by not having to explain these legal matters on fisheries. Being the Chairman of CECAF I have nothing to say except to recommend paragraph 4 of the document which authorizes the Director-General to take action on the promulgation of all the laws we want to change in CECAF.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Y a-t-il d'autres membres du Conseil qui désirent intervenir?... Y a-t-il certains observateurs qui désirent intervenir sur ce point? Je ne vois personne demander la parole.

Il reste donc au Conseil à décider d'autoriser le Directeur général à promulguer les amendements qu'il est suggéré d'apporter au mandat dudit Comité et en vertu de l'article 6, paragraphe 2, de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO et conformément à la Résolution 1/48 de la quarante-huitième session du Conseil de la FAO.

Puis-je considérer que le Conseil prend la décision d'autoriser le Directeur général à promulguer ces amendements?

Je constate un large consensus.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

21.4 Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees

21.4 Modifications de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier

21.4 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons maintenant au point 21.4 de notre ordre du jour. Ce point nous est soumis pour information et concerne la modification de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier. Vous avez devant vous le document CL 102/INF/10 qui se réfère à la soixante-cinquième session du Comité du programme. Il y est fait mention que M. Weybrecht, représentant permanent du Canada, a informé, par une lettre du 7 août 1992, Monsieur le Directeur général, que M. Robert Andrigo, nouveau représentant permanent du Canada auprès de la FAO, le remplacerait, en qualité de représentant du Canada, à la soixante-cinquième session du Comité du Programme et, je le suppose, aux sessions suivantes.

Je voudrais tout d'abord, puisque j'ai eu l'occasion de le connaître et d'apprécier ses interventions, souhaiter un brillant avenir à M. Weybrecht qui nous a quitté et souhaiter également la bienvenue à M. Andrigo dont vous avez

le curriculum vitae sous les yeux et qui a acquis une large expérience au fil du temps. Je suis convaincu que sa présence active au Comité du programme sera dans l'avenir, comme elle l'a été dans un passé récent, extrêmement bénéfique à ce Comité ainsi qu'aux activités du Comité conjoint comprenant le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme.

Ceci constitue la première partie de ce point qui vous est soumis pour information.

La seconde partie concerne la soixante-quatorzième session du Comité financier.

Conformément au Règlement général de l'Organisation - je ne vous en donne pas lecture mais il s'agit de l'article 27, paragraphe 4 du Règlement général -et aux dispositions de cet article, il a été indiqué au Directeur général, par une lettre du 19 août 1992, que M. William Marsh, Ministre-conseiller, représentant permanent des Etats-Unis d'Amérique auprès de la FAO, remplaçait Gerald Monroe, ancien représentant permanent des Etats-Unis d'Amérique auprès de la FAO, en qualité de représentant du gouvernement à la soixante-quatorzième session au Comité financier et aux sessions ultérieures.

Vous avez également sous les yeux le curriculum vitae de M. Marsh dont nous saluons la présence. Nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de remercier M. Monroe de sa collaboration fructueuse dans le cadre de la charge qu'il a assumée pendant de nombreuses années; il a en effet été un membre très actif du Comité financier qui lui a d'ailleurs rendu hommage.

M. Marsh, qui a une très vaste expérience en la matière, a déjà siégé au sein du Comité financier où il a joué un rôle très important. Nous lui souhaitons à nouveau la bienvenue et à lui aussi, une brillante carrière dans les années qui viennent.

Je rappelle qu'il existe donc cette possibilité de remplacement, parce que certains membres se sont parfois plaints que ces comités soient des comités clos. Ce n'est pas exact et, à cet égard, l'article 26.4 a) du Règlement général de l'Organisation est très clair.

Il nous reste maintenant à passer au point 22. En effet, le point 21.4 peut difficilement susciter un débat puisqu'il nous est soumis pour information.

22. Date and Place of the Hundred and Third Session of the Council

22. Date et lieu de la cent troisième session du Conseil

22. Fecha y lugar del 103<sup>a</sup> periodo de sesiones del Consejo

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le point 22 concerne la date et le lieu de la cent troisième session du Conseil. Je me réfère à ce sujet au document CL 102/14 qui a été approuvé hier. La date et le lieu de la cent troisième session ont été décidés: elle se tiendra du 14 au 25 juin 1993, le lieu restant traditionnellement la capitale de la République italienne, Rome. Je ne pense pas que cela mérite un débat.

Si personne ne désire intervenir, je considère que le point 22 est clos. Nous passons au point 23.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

23. Any Other Business

23. Autres questions

23. Otros asuntos

**LE PRESIDENT:** Est-ce que l'un ou l'autre membre du Conseil désire intervenir sur le point 23?

Comme vous le savez, ce point peut concerner des questions mineures qui n'ont pas été traitées par votre Conseil.

Y a-t-il des membres du Conseil qui désirent intervenir? Il n'y en a pas, je déclare donc le point 23 clos.

Nous avons évoqué ce matin le point 17 et vous avez entendu l'exposé de M. Samuel Fernandez Illanes, représentant du Chili.

Je vous proposerai de suspendre la séance - il est maintenant 10 h 25 - et de la reprendre à 11 h 30 précises pour examiner le dernier point de notre ordre du jour étant entendu que le point resté en suspens, relatif à l'exYougoslavie, sera vu demain en début de séance avant que nous abordions l'examen du rapport. Je voudrais indiquer qu'une réunion des présidents des groupes régionaux et des coordinateurs qui appartiennent au Groupe des 77 se tiendra à 12 h 30 dans la salle de la Malaisie avec comme ordre du jour la discussion du Bureau de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

La 17ème séance de notre Conseil est suspendue.

The meeting was suspended from 10.30 to 11.50 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 30 à 11 h 50.

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.30 a las 11.50 horas.

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

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

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

17. Remuneration and Conditions of Service of Staff (continued)

17. Rémunérations et conditions d'emploi du personnel (suite)

17. Remuneración y condiciones de servicio del personal (continuación)

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Chile):** En primer lugar, pedir excusas al Consejo, porque las conversaciones que han tenido lugar, que han sido fructíferas, nos han tomado un poco más del tiempo que habíamos previsto. Deseo mencionar que ha sido un trabajo en orden a obtener un proyecto final de resolución para que lo considere el Consejo, que ha sido elaborado teniendo en cuenta las aspiraciones legítimas que escuchamos por parte de las asociaciones del personal y sus necesidades, así como los puntos de vista expresados por

distintas delegaciones y en particular por la distinguida delegación del Reino Unido en nombre de los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea, y de la delegación de los Estados Unidos de América.

Estas reuniones fructíferas, que me siento en la necesidad de resaltar ante el Consejo, nos han llevado a un proyecto que está en casi todos los idiomas de trabajo y que recoge en buena medida lo que ha sido el resumen de las negociaciones que hemos tenido.

Con su venia, Sr. Presidente, quisiera referirme muy brevemente al proyecto, y solicito por mediación de usted, a la Secretaría, si es tan amable de distribuirlo, aunque puede tener algunas mínimas variaciones, para que tengan los señores delegados conocimiento sobre el tema.

El proyecto contiene un primer párrafo, en el cual se toma nota de la decepción y preocupación que nos concierne respecto a que, a pesar de lo manifestado en la Conferencia de 1991, la CAPI decidió presentar ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas recomendaciones que no responden adecuadamente al tema fundamental de la pérdida de competitividad de las remuneraciones.

El segundo párrafo, en líneas generales, reconoce que existe una situación crítica en estas remuneraciones, con consecuencias negativas para la capacidad de la Organización, punto que, recuerdo bien, fue específicamente mencionado por algunas delegaciones, y que naturalmente repercute finalmente en la calificación del personal altamente cualificado que la FAO tiene.

Asimismo, se reconoce en el tercer párrafo que se tenga en cuenta a los organismos especializados. Este párrafo está subdividido en tres puntos de atención:

El primero, en el cual se insta a los Estados Miembros a transmitir esta inquietud de la Organización a sus respectivos gobiernos; en el segundo se pide a la CAPI que continúe examinando y decida ahora estas medidas que, como decía anteriormente, pueden ser de efectos altamente negativos; por último, en su apartado c), se pide que se informe a la CAPI de esta preocupación general sobre la metodología utilizada para determinar los sueldos y pensiones de personal de Servicios Generales, que debe ser técnicamente bien fundada, y éste es el objetivo tal vez fundamental, y no provocar una degradación de las actuales condiciones.

En el cuarto párrafo del proyecto se toma en consideración, tanto la preocupación demostrada en todo instante por el Director General, como aquel aspecto que el Comité de Finanzas hizo suyo. Al respecto hay una pequeña modificación, que si a usted le parece, Sr. Presidente, más adelante, aprovechando la presencia del distinguido Embajador Di Mottola, podríamos aclarar.

Finalmente, en el último párrafo, el Consejo pide encarecidamente al Director General que transmita su opinión al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, así como al Presidente de la CAPI, a fin de que sean señaladas a la atención de la Quinta Comisión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas estas preocupaciones de manera conveniente.

Es lógico pensar que muchas de las legítimas aspiraciones de las asociaciones del personal, que hemos escuchado, no se encuentren cabalmente reflejadas.

También es cierto que algunas posturas de las respectivas delegaciones tampoco, pero se ha llegado a un trabajo cuidadoso, en que hemos tratado de medir palabra a palabra para que esto sea, y represente realmente, la legítima preocupación que el organismo tiene por la situación que hemos descrito.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I do not think there is a lot to add to what my colleague from Chile has just said. He has eloquently and comprehensively set out the background to the construction of this draft and I am grateful that the views of a number of us have been fully reflected in it in order to meet the basic objective, as I said in an earlier intervention, of sending a signal from this Council to the appropriate authorities in New York.

Perhaps for the sake of completeness I might simply underline, with your indulgence, the three points I said earlier: certainly the United Kingdom, for whom I am speaking, continues to attach considerable importance to the common system. We are also concerned to encourage the work of the ICSC but perhaps to encourage it to produce rather more quickly than seems to have been its intention; secondly, the point which delegates will see in paragraph (3)(b) of this draft, an examination of the competitiveness of the common system, and to come to some conclusion which is clearly acceptable to the UN system; and thirdly - and I think this perhaps for the United Kingdom was the key point which underlines our approach to this draft - we do not believe it is for this body or indeed any other, and certainly not for our individual governments, to anticipate the important deliberations which are currently taking place in the Fifth Committee in New York. Having said that, I am happy to commend this draft to colleagues in the Council which I think meets the wide concerns of all those who want to see this kind of signal sent from this Council. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** My delegation would like to support the work of our Chilean colleague and the statements that the United Kingdom just made. We find this a very constructive draft and we support and welcome in particular the efforts of FAO to work within the common system to find an alternative scheme of salaries and remuneration that will work for the Organization.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you to the distinguished delegate of America. I have received an intervention from the distinguished delegate of Egypt and this intervention will be entered in the verbatim reports.

**Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Presidente, Comité de Finanzas):** Solamente, Sr. Presidente, para proponer una pequeña enmienda al texto que ha sido presentado. Los representantes del personal me hicieron notar que habrían agradecido si la preocupación expresada en el informe del Comité de Finanzas, pudiera ser también expresada en el texto de esta resolución. Por tanto, he consultado también al representante del Reino Unido y me parece que estuvimos de acuerdo en que la enmienda podría consistir, y voy a leerla en inglés para evitar problemas de traducción:

"We have a most difficult time with this Resolution. The Council notes the Finance Committee's concern on this question and furthermore..."



Después seguiría: la intención del Director General. En fin, en español sería:

"El Consejo tomó nota de la preocupación del Comité de Finanzas respecto a este problema. Y, además, la intención del Director General...".

Yo creo que todo el mundo podría estar de acuerdo y esto daría mucha satisfacción a los representantes de las tres Asociaciones del personal.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** J'aimerais m'exprimer sur la proposition d'amendement qui vient d'être faite par le Président du Comité financier. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord sur le principe de cette proposition, mais, quant à son insertion dans le projet de résolution, nous estimons qu'il serait préférable de l'insérer en préambule au paragraphe 1 plutôt qu'au paragraphe 4. Je pense que tout le monde en comprendra la raison.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Ma délégation voudrait d'abord rendre un hommage particulier à tous ceux qui ont contribué à l'élaboration du texte de projet de résolution qui nous est soumis.

Je crois comprendre que la plupart de ceux qui sont intervenus appuient ce texte. Cependant, je voudrais faire un petit commentaire, qui ne devrait pas poser de problèmes majeurs, au sujet de l'alinéa (a) du paragraphe 3, qui se lit comme suit: "Reconnaissant la nécessité de prendre pleinement en considération les besoins des institutions spécialisées..., a) demande instamment à tous les Etats Membres de porter à l'attention de leur gouvernement les préoccupations de l'Organisation".

Je pense que si le Conseil partage les préoccupations du Secrétariat, il devrait agir d'une façon directe parce que, dans ce a), nous avons l'impression d'une entité qui s'adresse à elle-même: les gouvernements des Etats Membres. Je propose donc, si cela ne pose pas de problème, que ce a) soit modifié de la façon suivante:

"a) demande instamment aux gouvernements de tous les Etats Membres de porter une attention particulière aux préoccupations de l'Organisation".

Cela me semble plus logique que la formulation que nous avons actuellement selon laquelle les Etats Membres portent à l'attention de leur propre Gouvernement les préoccupations de l'Organisation. Voilà la proposition que je fais.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je voudrais tout simplement m'associer aux suggestions faites par mon collègue, le délégué du Congo.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I am simply asking our friend from Congo to write down his formulation again because I did not catch it all.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** I think this draft is an excellent one, Mr Chairman, and my delegation would like to commend those who have drafted this. We are in general agreement with the amendment proposed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

As regards the modifications amendment suggested by the distinguished representative of Congo, actually it does not seem to be quite different from what is there in (a), in paragraph 3, but if we have the formulation we will be able to see if it makes any difference.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Est-ce que d'autres membres du Conseil désirent intervenir?

Je vais vous soumettre une proposition: nous avons une première version, puis une seconde version et nous avons une proposition du Congo et enfin la suggestion du président du Comité des finances. Je pense que nous sommes d'accord sur le fond mais qu'il y a sans doute nécessité d'affiner quelque peu le texte. Etant donné que nous allons nous réunir demain matin je suggère, compte tenu des propositions qui viennent d'être faites, que l'on prépare pour cet après-midi, vers 15 h 30, la version finale, dans toutes les langues, version qui pourrait ainsi être distribuée et sur laquelle les membres pourraient se prononcer demain matin. Je ne crois pas, en effet, que ce soit une bonne méthode de travail d'examiner plusieurs versions différentes, des suggestions présentées à la fois par le Congo et par le Président du Comité financier et éventuellement des observations qui pourraient être faites par le Directeur de la Division du personnel. On ne sait plus sur quoi on se met d'accord, il y a des problèmes de traduction, etc.

C'est la raison pour laquelle je vous propose de vous prononcer sur la version finale, demain matin à la suite de quoi, après avoir épuisé le point 17 nous reviendrons au point 20.8 concernant l'ex-Yougoslavie et nous clôturerons la séance du Conseil pour entamer dès l'après-midi l'examen du rapport du Comité de rédaction.

**J.R. TURKSON (Ghana):** My small point is this. I did not get the formulation of the Congo correctly. Would you permit him to repeat his formulation for 3(a)? We would be grateful for that.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il est évident que la proposition du Congo sera prise en compte, mais je vais demander à M. Mombouli de répéter sa proposition.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** C'est avec plaisir que je vais reprendre le texte de ma proposition. Il s'agit du (a) du considérant 3. Le 3 se lirait ainsi "Reconnaissant la nécessité de prendre pleinement en considération les besoins des institutions spécialisées: a) demande instamment aux gouvernements de tous les Etats Membres de porter une attention particulière aux préoccupations de l'Organisation".

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** I would just like to ask for clarification on paragraph 4 and, given the fact that I am asking in the context of what the Director-General's actual intention is, the Secretariat could answer it later if they do not want to do it right now. I think in transmitting this document we should be sure that it is the Director-General's intention to consider alternative measures. If it is not, then we should say that.

I would like to make very clear that, while it is my Government's position system-wide to support formulations of the common system that adjust for different conditions in different UN cities, we do not want to say FAO is doing something that it may not be doing. This is in the interests of making this draft accurate.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je crois que je vais me rallier à votre précision, quoique, pour notre part, nous aurions aimé que le Conseil exprime son opinion sur les deux amendements proposés de manière à ce que, demain, le texte final soit vraiment clair et précis, car si demain nous n'arrivions pas à être d'accord il faudrait encore discuter sur la question.

Ceci étant, je voudrais vous rappeler de ne pas oublier ma suggestion sur la proposition d'amendement.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Nous n'oublions rien et nous allons rassembler l'ensemble des observations présentées. Nous pouvons même prévoir une petite réunion avec tous ceux qui ont fait des observations et avec le Président du Comité du Programme ainsi que le Directeur du personnel.

**Adel EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** The Egyptian delegation, after listening to the interventions of the respective delegates, and the introduction to Item 17, would like to express its full support to the staff, who are the pillar and cornerstone in implementing the tasks and objectives of our Organization.

May we add that by providing them with good incentives, their work will be constructive and fruitful. Therefore, the Egyptian delegation supports the contents of the draft proposals submitted to us.<sup>1</sup>

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I note that provision 4 appears to be somewhat different from what was in earlier drafts. I would simply propose to the Council that, with the exception of this paragraph, the matter is being referred to bodies external to the Organization. Therefore, I would question the appropriateness of including a statement that is addressed to the Organization being included in this particular statement. This, of course, is an internal matter. As I say, the text is somewhat different, or quite different, from what I saw earlier.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Il y a évidemment une solution qui consiste à avoir deux projets: un projet pour les instances externes et un projet du Conseil pour les instances de la FAO, de façon à procéder de manière méthodique comme vient de l'indiquer le Directeur général adjoint.

Afin d'arriver à une situation très claire, je demanderai à M. Samuel Fernandez Illanes d'avoir la gentillesse de rester en relation avec les différents membres concernés par cette question, c'est-à-dire le représentant du personnel, le Directeur de la Division du personnel et bien sûr notre

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<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Président du Comité financier de façon à régler ce problème le plus rapidement possible demain en début d'après-midi.

1 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

La suggestion du Directeur général adjoint me paraît fondée. Il s'agit d'un appel adressé aux instances externes d'une part et, d'autre part, d'un vœu du Conseil adressé aux instances internes qui seraient repris dans les décisions du Conseil et dans le rapport que nous examinerons demain.

Etes-vous d'accord sur cette procédure qui me paraît être la plus opérationnelle?

Je ne vois pas d'observation.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

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 102/PV/18

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102º período de sesiones

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
18ª SESION PLENARIA  
(20 November 1992)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

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

Se abre la 18ª sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas

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

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME. LE BUDGET. LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS. FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 17. Remuneration and Conditions of Service of Staff (continued)
- 17. Rémunération et conditions d'emploi du personnel (suite)
- 17. Remuneración y condiciones de servicio del personal (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déclare ouverte la dix-huitième séance plénière de notre Conseil.

Nous avons inscrit à notre ordre du jour, pour la séance de ce matin et la séance de cet après-midi, le point 17: Rémunération et conditions d'emploi du personnel (CL 102/4) qui est le rapport de la soixante-treizième session du Comité financier, plus spécifiquement les paragraphes 2.60-2.74. Ce point de l'ordre du jour se réfère également au document CL 102/17, qui est le rapport de la soixante-quatorzième session du Comité financier et qui traite des questions du personnel, plus spécifiquement dans les paragraphes 3.66-3.86. Nous avons également le document CL 102/LIM/2, qui est la résultante de très nombreux contacts, et là nous rendons une fois de plus hommage au représentant de la République du Chili por todos sus esfuerzos en esa materia.

Il existe toutefois un petit problème, c'est que le document CL 102/LIM/2 devrait être accompagné d'un document de présentation sur le déroulement des travaux du Conseil au cours de sa cent deuxième session qui ont abouti au document sur lequel un très large accord peut être noté. Il me paraît difficile de soumettre au Conseil le document CL 102/LIM/2: Rémunération et conditions d'emploi du personnel, sans que vous ayez en main, dans toutes les langues de l'Organisation, le document de présentation du document CL 102/LIM/2, document que le Secrétariat, avec sa diligence habituelle, s'efforce de faire traduire le plus rapidement possible. Je crois que le Secrétariat réalisera le challenge de faire distribuer ce document avant midi. Vous auriez entre midi et 2 h 30 le temps de lire le document de présentation et nous statuerions sur le document CL 102/LIM/2 au début de la séance de cet après-midi.

Ce matin nous allons examiner le point d'ordre inscrit à notre ordre du jour et nous commencerons à examiner le rapport.

S'il n'y a pas d'objections de la part des membres du Conseil en ce qui concerne le déroulement des travaux de la séance de ce matin et de la séance de cet après-midi, je considère que le Conseil marque son accord à la proposition que je viens de faire.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

POINT OF ORDER ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO) (continued)

POINT D'ORDRE CONCERNANT LA PARTICIPATION DE LA  
REPUBLIQUE FEDERATIVE DE YUGOSLAVIE (SERBIE ET  
MONTENEGROS) (suite)

CUESTION DE ORDEN SOBRE LA PARTICIPACION DE LA  
REPUBLICA FEDERATIVA DE YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA Y  
MONTENEGRO) (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons à examiner le point qui a été soulevé au cours de la première séance de notre Conseil. Ce point concerne l'ancienne Fédération de Yougoslavie. Comme vous le savez - c'est dans la première partie de notre rapport - une demande d'adhésion à l'Organisation, qui sera soumise à la prochaine Conférence en novembre 1993, a été introduite par deux pays: la Slovénie et la Croatie, qui ont été admises par votre Conseil en qualité d'observateurs.

Incontestablement un petit problème juridique se pose. L'actuelle République fédérative de Yougoslavie (Serbie et Monténégro) peut difficilement être considérée comme la succession de la République fédérale socialiste de Yougoslavie. Vous savez également que ce problème a été examiné par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Certains membres du Conseil ont eu l'occasion de nous faire part du fait qu'ils n'avaient pas pu obtenir des instructions à temps de leur gouvernement. Je vous proposerai donc la procédure suivante: Nous pourrions nous ranger à ce qui a été adopté par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) cannot continue automatically their membership of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations and therefore decide that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the United Nations and it should not participate in the work of the General Assembly. Nous pourrions transposer cela en ce qui concerne le Conseil et ses organes subsidiaires.

Donc ne préjugeons pas de l'avenir. A ce stade il n'y aura pas de participation d'un nouvel Etat, compte tenu de ce que je viens de vous décrire, et je demanderai au Conseil s'il marque son accord.

En ce qui concerne la procédure, je n'ai pas l'intention de rouvrir le débat. Je demanderai aux pays qui ont certaines réserves, faute d'instructions, de lever leur pancarte. Nous noterons la position du Conseil et nous noterons que certains pays n'ont pas pu en temps voulu obtenir d'instructions, de façon à éviter que nous consacrons trop de temps à nous aligner sur la position politique qui est une position d'attente décidant la non-participation provisoire, jusqu'à l'introduction d'une demande comme membre des Nations Unies.

Je vous demande de vous inscrire dès maintenant si vous désirez intervenir - et je souhaite que ce soit brièvement - dans le débat. Je ferai remarquer que c'est un problème qui relève uniquement de la compétence du Conseil. Je clos la liste des intervenants qui se compose de la République islamique d'Iran, du Brésil, du Bangladesh et de la Tanzanie.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** As you recommended, Mr Chairman, I will try to be as brief as possible. I have the great honour

to make this statement on behalf of the Near East Group and its Member States on the subject of our present discussion of this Council's session.

The Near East Group took note of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/1 adopted on 22 September 1992 at its Seventh Plenary meeting, in which the General Assembly, on the basis of the recommendation of the Security Council of 19 September 1992, considered that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not continue automatically the membership of the former socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations, and therefore decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the United Nations and that it should not participate in the work of the General Assembly.

Accordingly, based on this Resolution, the Near East Group finds it only appropriate that the representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) can no longer represent the former Yugoslavia in FAO's meetings and that we do not accept their automatic continuity of membership in the name of former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and we fully support the idea that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should therefore apply for new membership as has been noted by the United Nations Legal Counsel advice on the applicability of the General Assembly Resolution to other United Nations bodies.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** Seremos muy breves, Sr. Presidente.

Cuando esta resolución mencionada la 47/1, fue aprobada por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, la delegación del Brasil en esta Asamblea se abstuvo e hizo una declaración de voto. Yo no voy a repetir esta declaración de voto porque ya está registrada en la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas. De manera que yo pediría que esta posición del Brasil fuera reflejada en el informe del Consejo.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** On General Assembly Resolution 47/1 dated 22 September 1992 Bangladesh voted in favour of the Resolution. Therefore our position in this body also remains the same. We do not consider that the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should automatically have membership of this body and so they must apply afresh.

**Daudi NGELAUTWA MWAKAWAGO (Tanzania):** I shall be very brief, Mr. Chairman. Since I am awaiting instructions from home, I reserve my position.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I should like to read out, with your indulgence, a possible wording for the decision, if the decision is being taken now by the Council, which could be included in the report. I would like to see whether this meets the wishes of the Council, bearing in mind two things, (1) the content of the UN General Assembly Resolution and (2) the fact that membership questions are really questions for the Conference of your Organization to deal with. I would therefore suggest perhaps limiting the scope of this decision, if you are in agreement, to a question of participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies, as I think had been originally requested by the United Kingdom and as in fact has been followed in Unesco with respect to participation in its Executive Council.



I will read out slowly a suggested text to see whether it meets with the approval of the Council. It would come, I think, after the first reference in the draft report to Yugoslavia.

"At the end of the session, the Council took up again the matter of the participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in the work of the Council. The Council noted United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/1 adopted on 22 September 1992, in which the United Nations General Assembly had considered that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations and had therefore decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should apply for membership in the United Nations and that it should not participate in the General Assembly. The Council, taking note of the United Nations precedent, decided that henceforth the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) shall not participate in the work of the Council or its subsidiary bodies". "The Council recognized that this measure was an exceptional one and should not constitute a precedent within FAO." Finally, if this is necessary, "Some members abstained from taking a position on the matter, indicating that they had not yet received instructions from their governments", or some words to that effect, or merely, "abstained from taking a position on the matter".

**LE PRESIDENT:** En réponse à la question posée par un membre du Conseil, qui m'a été adressée par écrit, je signale de manière très claire que le représentant de la République fédérative de Yougoslavie (Serbie et Monténégro) n'a pas été admis par le Conseil en tant qu'observateur. C'est clair et définitif; je ne peux donc pas lui donner la parole.

Par ailleurs, nous avons entendu les réserves du représentant de la Tanzanie, qui n'a pas reçu d'instructions, et la position d'abstention très claire du représentant du Brésil qui se réfère à la déclaration d'abstention de ce pays à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

Puis-je considérer que le Conseil marque son accord avec la proposition que j'ai faite, à savoir que le Comité de rédaction se réunisse après notre séance de ce matin pour rédiger le texte de la partie du rapport relative à ce point précis? Il en sera ainsi.

Je vous signale que nous essaierons de nous prononcer sur le document concernant le personnel le plus rapidement possible de façon à permettre au Comité de rédaction de se mettre également d'accord sur le texte de la partie du rapport relative au point 17 de l'ordre du jour.

#### ADOPTION OF REPORT

#### ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

#### APROBACION DEL INFORME

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons procéder maintenant à l'adoption du rapport et je demande au Président du Comité de rédaction, M. David Drake, de bien vouloir nous rejoindre sur le podium.

Je tiens à remercier tout particulièrement le Comité de rédaction pour le travail rapide, exhaustif et efficace qu'il a accompli sous la présidence de M. David Drake, du Canada. Ce Comité est composé des pays suivants: l'Angola, l'Argentine, l'Australie, le Canada, la France, la République islamique d'Iran, le Japon, le Mexique, le Pakistan, les Philippines, le Soudan, la Suède et la Zambie.

Conformément à nos textes statutaires, le Comité de rédaction a fait participer le Secrétariat à toutes ses activités.

Je vais tout d'abord donner la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** The Drafting Committee worked in a cordial, constructive and timely fashion as you have indicated. The draft report before you represents many hours of hard work by the Drafting Committee, the composition of which you have just mentioned.

Special attention was paid to producing a document which would be acceptable to all member states of the Council.

I should like to make just one clarification before we begin with regard to two items: item 4, "State of Food and Agriculture" and item 9 "Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO". These are both items in which there were many issues discussed. As such, they are items in which various delegations made statements but did not necessarily cover every single issue. Accordingly the Drafting Committee was very careful in its proceedings to make sure that the results, particularly with regard to any attribution to the Council, accurately reflected what the Council as a whole said. If there was any doubt, this was carefully taken into consideration. In essence, just because all countries may have spoken in favour of an item does not mean - because we were covering many different items and many different issues under the items that there was absolute support or opposition. So we dealt with these two issues as omnibus items and we took special care to make sure that these items were dealt with appropriately as we proceeded. I should just like you to take note of that before we begin.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous prenons les différentes parties du rapport, qui ont déjà été distribuées hier par le Secrétariat. Je vous demanderai, de façon à pouvoir faire accélérer nos travaux, de ne pas trop vous attarder sur les problèmes de traduction. Avec mes faibles connaissances, en comparant les textes français, anglais et espagnols, j'ai quand même trouvé un certain nombre d'erreurs de traduction, notamment dans les textes espagnols et français. Je crois que l'on a principalement travaillé sur les textes anglais. Je ne demanderai pas, bien sûr, à ceux qui ne parlent pas la belle langue de Shakespeare, de se référer aux textes anglais; mais le Secrétariat aura l'occasion de réviser la traduction par la suite. Il y a probablement des erreurs aussi en chinois et en arabe.

Il reste encore deux points: celui relatif à la participation de la République fédérative de Yougoslavie (Serbie et Monténégro, qui vient d'être examiné et sur lequel je demanderai au Comité de rédaction de se consacrer à l'heure du déjeuner; et celui relatif au problème du personnel - le point 17 - à propos duquel le Comité de rédaction va rédiger un texte de projet de résolution sur lequel nous nous prononcerons. Sous ces deux réserves, tous les points de

l'ordre du jour ont été complètement examinés. Nous pouvons donc passer à l'adoption du document CL 102/REP/1, première partie du rapport. Ce document comprend l'introduction et les questions de procédure ainsi que les questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Je vais procéder paragraphe par paragraphe afin que tous les membres du Conseil aient l'occasion de faire les remarques qu'ils estiment nécessaires.

DRAFT REPORT - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I

PARAGRAPH 1

PARAGRAPHE 1

PARRAFO 1

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je commence par l'introduction: Paragraphe 1. La session du Conseil s'est bien tenue du 9 novembre au 20 novembre 1992. Je ne crois pas que nous irons jusqu'au 21. Y a-t-il des remarques sur ce paragraphe? Il est adopté.

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 2 TO 7

PARAGRAPHES 2 A 7

PARRAFOS 2 A 7

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le paragraphe 2 concerne le premier point de l'ordre du jour: Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier. Y a-t-il des remarques sur ce paragraphe? Il est adopté.

Nous passons au paragraphe 3.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** There is a mistake in the printing which I would draw to the attention of the members. It is in paragraph 3. There is reference to the General Assembly which is not correct. It was agreed by the Drafting Committee that it should read as "United Nations", but it has been misprinted in this particular case. This is in the latter part of the second sentence: "They drew the attention of the Council to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/1 adopted on 22 September 1992, in which the General Assembly considered that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations, and therefore..." and the remainder is the same. This was just a printing error.

**LE PRESIDENT:** De toute façon le point 3 est réservé compte tenu de la décision qui a été prise ce matin. M. Moore vous a donné lecture d'un avant-projet de complément au paragraphe 3. Concernant ce paragraphe 3 le Comité de rédaction

se réunira à l'heure du repas. Le paragraphe 3 n'est donc pas adopté, nous le réservons pour l'examiner cet après-midi.

Nous passons au paragraphe 4. Y a-t-il des commentaires? Il n'y en a pas. Adopté.

Paragraphe 5. Ce paragraphe suscite-t-il des observations? Il n'y a pas d'observations. Adopté.

Paragraphe 6. Y a-t-il des observations? Il n'y en a pas. Adopté.

Paragraphe 7. Y a-t-il des observations? Il n'y en a pas. Adopté, étant entendu que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques se penchera sur la question dès sa prochaine session.

Paragraphs 2 to 7 not concluded.

Les paragraphes 2 à 7 sont en suspens.

Los párrafos 2 a 7 quedan pendientes.

PARAGRAPHS 8 AND 9

PARAGRAPHERS 8 ET 9

PARRAFOS 8 Y 9

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons maintenant à l'élection des trois Vice-Présidents qui, conformément au Règlement, se trouvent sur un pied de parfaite égalité. Nous avons discuté sur le point de savoir s'il y avait un premier Vice-Président, un second et un troisième Vice-Président. J'ai bien étudié tous les précédents. Certes il y a un ordre d'élection mais il n'y a aucune hiérarchie entre les Vice-Présidents.

Tout le monde est d'accord sur ce point? Adopté.

Paragraphe 9 qui concerne le Comité de rédaction auquel, une fois de plus, je tiens à rendre hommage.

Pas d'observations? Adopté.

Paragraphs 8 and 9 approved

Les paragraphes 8 et 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 y 9 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 10

PARAGRAPH 10

PARRAFO 10

**LE PRESIDENT:** Paragraphe 10. Hommage rendu à M. Boerma, ancien Directeur général, décédé au début de cette année. Pas d'observations? Adopté.

Paragraph 10 approved

Le paragraphe 10 est approuvé

El párrafo 10 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 11 TO 16

PARAGRAPHERS 11 A 16

PARRAFOS 11 A 16

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons à l'exposé introductif du Directeur général. Cet exposé n'appelle aucune discussion, nous passons donc au point 11.

Paragraphs 11 to 16 approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 16 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 16 son aprobados

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons aux matières légales et constitutionnelles.

PARAGRAPHS 17 TO 19

PARAGRAPHERS 17 A 19

PARRAFOS 17 A 19

Paragraphs 17 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 19 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 20 AND 21

PARAGRAPHERS 20 ET 21

PARRAFOS 20 Y 21

Paragraphs 20 and 21 approved

Les paragraphes 20 et 21 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 20 y 21 son aprobados

Nous en avons terminé avec le REP/1 sous réserve du point 3 que nous reverrons cet après-midi.

Draft Report - Part I. not concluded.

Le projet de rapport - Première partie, est en suspens.

El proyecto de informe - Parte I. queda pendiente.

DRAFT REPORT - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT - DEUXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 21

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 21

PARRAFOS 1 A 21

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Hemos leído la primera parte del texto que el Comité de Redacción ha elaborado para nuestro análisis y aprobación apreciando con preocupación que la misma no recoge aspectos importantes que ocurrieron

en el debate desarrollado fundamentalmente en este aspecto del Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

Conocemos por experiencia que resultarla imposible abarcar todo lo acontecido en los debates, pero me estoy refiriendo sólo a algunos aspectos que por su importancia y evidencia no es posible dejar pasar por alto, razón por la cual, señor Presidente, con la venia de usted y de los distinguidos colegas, nuestra delegación solicita manifestar algunas consideraciones al respecto para que se entienda el asunto en su verdadero contexto, o sea, dentro de este tema, y así, presentar una breve proposición.

Cuba es un país del llamado Tercer Mundo en vías de desarrollo, enclavado en el centro de América Latina en el Caribe, cuya isla sólo tiene como fronteras el mar.

Cuba, como bien ustedes saben, no está en guerra con nadie, ni agrede a nadie, pero, sin embargo, está seriamente agredida precisamente en el aspecto que trata este tema; amenazada seriamente en la adquisición de alimentos y medios para desarrollar sus cosechas y para equilibrar su comercio agropecuario.

Cuba es miembro fundador de la FAO, así como forma parte de su prestigioso Consejo, por lo cual, entiendo justo que es dentro de éste, su organismo internacional, que atiende precisamente el acceso de las naciones a la alimentación, la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria. El marco apropiado para denunciar que su población compuesta por niños, mujeres y ancianos, está siendo víctima de contradictorias disposiciones jurídicas que utilizan los alimentos como arma política, asunto que tanto se ha oído hablar y rechazar en todas las sesiones de los Consejos de la FAO, y hoy precisamente se recoge en este informe referente a la Declaración de Barcelona. Situación que recuerda la conocida historia del Gigante Goliat contra David, en este caso, un David con una modesta, pero fuerte onda moral dispuesta a utilizar en su defensa sin que le tiemble la mano.

Señor Presidente, señores delegados, nos asiste todo el derecho de tratar de impedir a tiempo esta nueva agresión económica a nuestro país.

Hemos soportado estoicamente un bloqueo de más de 30 años, bloqueo al que hemos hecho referencia en innumerables ocasiones en este Consejo, y así debe constar en sus Actas, se trata ahora del recrudecimiento de ese bloqueo que mediante la llamada Ley Torricelli, viola el escrito respecto a los principios y propósitos de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, cuya promulgación y aplicación con efectos extraterritoriales prohíbe la venta de alimentos o productos alimenticios a Cuba de parte de Estados soberanos, repetimos que esta disposición...

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Más corto, por favor.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Atentando contra la libertad de comercio y la navegación y la propia soberanía de los Estados. Hay países que han advertido que estas medidas causarán daños en las propias relaciones bilaterales entre países al declarar a tiempo...

**ELPRESIDENTE:** Querido Embajador, no podemos admitir nuevos discursos, estamos discutiendo el informe. Usted, en el marco del informe puede hacer cualquier proposición, pero pronunciar un nuevo discurso no podemos admitirlo. Usted habló de la Ley Torricelli, habló también Venezuela, usted puede hacer una proposición de modificación del texto del informe, pero no vamos a reanudar con un nuevo debate a propósito de este tema. He dado a todos los miembros del Consejo la posibilidad de hablar sin límite de tiempo para todos los puntos, nunca corté la palabra a un Miembro del Consejo. Ahora estamos estudiando y examinando el informe y la proposición del Comité de Redacción, si usted quiere añadir algo al informe puede hacerlo, pero pronunciar un nuevo discurso me parece que sería una cosa que no puedo admitir en mi calidad de Presidente de este Consejo, porque no puedo dar la autorización de reanudar el debate que se terminó.

Usted tiene la palabra a propósito del informe.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Nuestro propósito, señor Presidente, era sencillamente situar el tema en este momento, pero de esta manera, señor Presidente, de forma respetuosa y objetiva, tratando solamente de reflejar el debate, sin ánimo de abrirlo, pues no es nuestra intención, esto lo saben varios colegas, así como el Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Sometemos a consideración de este prestigioso foro, el siguiente breve texto, que recoge en derecho de justicia, lo planteado en la segunda sesión del día 9 de noviembre, texto que leeré a compás de dictado. Es nuestra proposición, señor Presidente.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Podría leer lentamente la proposición que usted quiere añadir el párrafo 2, del documento CL 102/REP/2?

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** "Algunas delegaciones, repito, algunas delegaciones se pronunciaron en contra de la llamada Ley Torricelli, promulgada recientemente en los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica contra Cuba, por considerarla atentatoria a la seguridad alimentaria y el comercio internacional y no estar en consonancia con la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y otros documentos jurídicos internacionales en esta materia."

Pregunto, señor Presidente, si quiere que la repita otra vez?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Me parece demasiado larga.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** My delegation regrets very much having to speak again on this issue. We strongly oppose the inclusion of the text read by the delegate from Cuba. We believe that the position of Cuba is totally and accurately reflected in the Verbatim Report. Our own remarks regarding the allegations of the Cuban delegate are in the Verbatim Report.

We believe that the Drafting Committee has done an excellent job summarizing the issue before the Council, the State of Food and Agriculture, and I would respectfully encourage the Council to accept the Report as currently before us and not include extraneous statements.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Usted debería escuchar una proposición del Presidente del Comité de Redacción para tratar de reflejar la posición de dos delegaciones de una manera muy corta, pero no me parece que habría que discutir el fondo del problema. Se debe ver también únicamente que en el párrafo 2 se refleja la posición que han tomado todas las delegaciones de, como digo, de manera muy corta.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Very briefly, Sir, I do not have a proposal. This issue was not discussed in the Drafting Committee and it was not included in the text you received, the draft from the Secretariat, and so was not discussed in the Drafting Committee. This is an issue for Plenary, Sir.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sr. Embajador de Cuba, usted tiene la palabra para hacer una proposición concreta muy corta que refleje la posición de dos delegaciones, por favor, de una manera muy breve.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** No estamos solicitando una declaración, nosotros estamos tratando de que una cosa que se trató en el Consejo se refleje.

La distinguida representación de los Estados Unidos puede decir lo que ellos dijeron: Estamos diciendo que se recoja el debate en lo que dijeron dos delegaciones y en lo que dijo una delegación, que para nuestro país, que es miembro de este Consejo, es muy importante, sencilla y muy respetuosamente.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** No vamos a discutir del fondo, quisiera que usted hiciera una proposición corta para reflejar su posición.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Yo ya propuse esto. Yo pongo en manos del Comité de Redacción, que creo ha estado muy elocuente, que busque una solución sobre este problema. Yo planteo que se refleje textualmente lo que dijeron dos delegaciones, y que sencillamente, la distinguida representación de los Estados Unidos ponga lo que ellos dijeron. Yo acepto lo que ellos dijeron.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quisiera tener un texto corto. Puede usted hacer una proposición de un texto corto.

Nous réservons le paragraphe 2.

Le voy a pedir al Embajador de Cuba que presente al Comité de Redacción un texto muy corto. Quizás los Estados Unidos de América podrían también presentar su posición, pero de una manera corta.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, I very much regret having to take up the time of Council with this issue but I would like to state once again my very strong belief that the report of the Council is an inappropriate place to discuss internal differences, domestic politics and other issues. I will continue to maintain that position. In the interests of cooperation I will try to come up with a very brief sentence.



**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished representative of the United States of America. In order to facilitate the work of the Council, I propose to put this point into writing for a concrete and just proposal.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic):** I would like to propose an amendment to paragraph 3 where it concerns the Arabic text only to bring it into line with the English text. I will hand over the text but the main point is to delete the word "Persian" from line 7. Delete the word "Persian" and just refer to "the conflict in the Gulf Area".

**CHAIRMAN:** No objections? I will call on the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to speak but may I point out we cannot discuss geography?

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** Mr Chairman, I should say that I do not see why we should delete the word "Persian" from the Persian Gulf. It is the Persian Gulf, it is already referred to as that by the United Nations, and should be left as it is.

**CHAIRMAN:** I think that is a decision of the United Nations and I will give the floor to Mr Moore to explain the geography. No, wait a moment, I will give the floor to the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** All I want is for the Arabic and English texts to be identical. When I read the text in Arabic it is different from the English text. That is my first comment, and so there are a number of things to be tidied up. We refer here to a conflict which has already taken place and it is over but we should call things by their name. The name of the conflict was the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Monsieur le Président, vous aviez raison lorsque vous avez dit que nous ne sommes pas là pour parler de géographie. On pourrait peut-être éviter de parler du "golfe Persique" et parler simplement de "rétablissement de l'économie à la suite du conflit de la région".

**CHAIRMAN:** Before I give the floor to another distinguished delegate I would ask Mr Moore to try to find a very good compromise.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Mr Chairman, I understand this matter has arisen on a number of occasions in the past in the United Nations when dealing with this particular conflict. I would suggest that perhaps the Council may wish to follow the wording which is used in the documents in the United Nations, referring to this particular conflict. We will check, if you wish, the wording used in the United Nations' documents and include that wording. If I may add one more thing, Mr Chairman, I do not think it refers to the actual area but talks about the conflict itself between the parties involved and thereby avoids any reference to an area one way or another.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Compte tenu de l'observation judicieuse du représentant du Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite, nous pourrions réserver le paragraphe 3 pour trouver l'expression géographique idoine qui sera de nature à satisfaire le souci de l'Arabie Saoudite et de la République islamique d'Iran.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Asi se acuerda.

Nous passons au paragraphe 4: adopté. Paragraphe 5.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, in the second sentence of this paragraph "The Council also expressed concern", I would like to suggest we delete this word "also" because it also occurs in the first sentence. Either we can delete "also" in the first sentence and keep "also" in the second sentence. Either way it can be done.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le Comité de rédaction est mieux qualifié que moi mais je proposerais de supprimer le terme "également" (also), à la première ligne.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Le paragraphe 5 est adopté.

Paragraphe 6.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, in the first sentence, "the Council expressed concern with the further decline". I would suggest that we delete the word "the" so that it will read "with further decline".

**CHAIRMAN:** No problem. I think we can adopt the proposal of Bangladesh.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, I have a problem with the construction of the first sentence, where it says, "the Council deplored the acute food shortages in many parts of the world". The use of the word "deplored" is not appropriate in this context. My delegation thinks we might say "the Council expressed concern" or even "grave concern". The word "deplored" is something which is possibly not appropriate in the context of the sentence.

In the second sentence also I would like to suggest it is "noted with utmost concern" and delete "the".

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** The distinguished delegate of Bangladesh has pointed out something with regard to the word "deplored". This was actually picked up in the Drafting Committee. You will notice earlier on there are references to expressing concern and also grave concern. I think

this is a slip up. We meant to have this throughout the text and the distinguished delegate is absolutely correct in that it will then correspond to what the Drafting Committee said. I think certainly there would be no problem in taking out the word "the" in the second sentence. I thank the distinguished delegate from Bangladesh for his intervention.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** En commençant l'adoption de ce rapport, vous avez attiré notre attention sur le fait qu'il ne fallait pas tellement être pointilleux sur des questions de forme, mais aussi de terminologie.

A la lecture de ce paragraphe 9, je vois que le Conseil a déploré les pénuries qui étaient survenues et a cité deux régions: l'Afrique orientale, et l'Afrique australe.

Je voudrais faire une remarque d'ordre général. Autant que faire se peut, il serait bon que nous essayions de garder la terminologie qui est connue de tout le monde dans la désignation des différentes parties du monde. Lorsque nous avons parlé des problèmes de pénurie alimentaire concernant l'Afrique, nous avons toujours parlé de l'Afrique australe et de la Corne de l'Afrique. Cela ne change pas grand chose, mais il faudrait peut-être garder la même terminologie à l'avenir.

**LE PRESIDENT:** C'est un problème géographique. Quelle est la différence entre l'Afrique de l'Est et la Corne de l'Afrique? Je ne me prononcerai pas. Je demanderai à M. Moore de nous dire s'il connaît la terminologie des Nations Unies en matière de corne.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I believe the United Nations merely refers to "horns" in the context of dilemmas! I will check.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que nous n'allons pas perdre de temps. Nous nous rangeons à l'avis du Président du Comité de rédaction et nous pouvons considérer le paragraphe 9 comme adopté, sur la base de ce que vient de dire le Président du Comité de rédaction.

Paragraphe 10: adopté.

Paragraphe 11: adopté.

Paragraphe 12: adopté.

Paragraphe 13.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je voudrais intervenir sur le rapport, sans ouvrir le débat.

Ce paragraphe nous intéresse à plus d'un titre. Vous savez que la Côte d'Ivoire était intervenue au cours du débat sur ce point concernant le commerce international des produits agricoles, et de nombreux pays, qui sont

associés à la CEE par les accords de Lomé que vous connaissez bien, l'ont fait également. C'est la raison pour laquelle au niveau de la deuxième phrase du paragraphe 13, après la première, je voudrais proposer un ajout.

La deuxième phrase du paragraphe 13 se lirait comme suit:

"Il a réaffirmé qu'il est extrêmement important pour les pays en développement d'obtenir un meilleur accès aux marchés" et j'ajouterais "et de renforcer les mécanismes compensatoires existants, afin d'accroître les recettes d'exportation..."

**LE PRESIDENT:** La proposition de la Côte d'Ivoire consiste à ajouter "et de renforcer les mécanismes compensatoires existants".

**Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy):** We are talking about the first sentence of paragraph 13. I do not think we can go along with it. It seems it is an internal attitude on all matters of the Council. As a matter of fact, there are some countries even inside the European Community which cannot go along with that. I would propose we say, "the Council noted that many members deplored", or "some members deplored".

**CHAIRMAN:** Let us take things one at a time. We will start with Côte d'Ivoire's proposal. The proposal of Italy is different.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** The proposal of Côte d'Ivoire is a new item at this point. It was not discussed in the Drafting Committee as such. I would not see any difficulty with it. It is up to the Members to decide. Again this was not discussed as such in the Drafting Committee.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Je veux bien croire en la bonne foi du Président du Comité de rédaction qui dit qu'il n'y a pas d'objection de la part du Comité de rédaction. On ne discute pas de toutes les questions, sinon le projet prendrait des jours et des jours de débat. Il n'en reste pas moins vrai que la Côte d'Ivoire et d'autres délégations ont fait allusion à ces mécanismes. Je crois que le problème actuellement c'est de savoir si cet ajout nous l'acceptons ou pas. Nous devons l'accepter, dans la mesure où il fait allusion aux déclarations des membres du Conseil. Ce n'est pas parce que ça n'a pas fait l'objet d'un débat au niveau du Comité de rédaction que nous ne l'acceptons pas.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le problème est qu'il n'y a pas de problème, puisque le Président du Comité de rédaction vient de dire qu'il ne voyait pas d'objections à cet ajout. Il est évident que l'Afrique n'était pas très nombreuse au Comité de rédaction, parce qu'il y avait uniquement le Soudan et l'Angola. Il est clair que ceux qui n'ont pas participé au Comité de rédaction peuvent faire des suggestions, elles sont d'autant plus fondées que le Président du Comité de rédaction a dit qu'il n'y avait pas d'objections à la proposition de la Côte d'Ivoire.

Cette proposition me paraît très précise et je la relis. L'honorable délégué de la Côte d'Ivoire a proposé d'ajouter: "que soient renforcés les mécanismes de compensation existants".

Est-ce qu'il y a des objections sur la proposition de la Côte d'Ivoire?

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** I simply request clarification as to what we refer to when we say "compensatory mechanisms". I cannot quite find the reference here. I think we do make reference at one point to the Dunkel proposals which I think cover it. I cannot quite find the text right now.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Ces mécanismes compensateurs sont connus de tous ceux qui font partie de la Convention de Lomé. Les systèmes d'APEX et du SYSMIN consistent à protéger les économies des pays les plus faibles et leur permettent d'assurer et de garantir dans une certaine mesure - une mesure, hélas, parfois trop limitée - leurs recettes d'exportation. Ces mécanismes existent depuis de très nombreuses années; ils n'ont jamais causé la moindre distorsion au commerce international. Je crois que, tous, nous ne pouvons que souhaiter qu'ils soient renforcés.

Le représentant du Canada voit-il une objection à la proposition du représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire? Il n'y en a pas. La proposition du représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire est donc adoptée.

Nous passons maintenant à la remarque du représentant de l'Italie, qui concerne le début de la phrase où l'on parle du Conseil. Je crois que le Comité de rédaction s'est déjà penché sur ce problème.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** As I mentioned at the beginning before we began our deliberations on this, the Drafting Committee paid special attention to making sure that an omnibus document such as this was as accurate as possible and that these were as accurate as possible in reflecting the different views put forward. We could not prejudge the issue simply because everybody who spoke had spoken in favour of one thing. In this particular case, we had a long debate over this particular phrasing.

I will say, Mr Chairman, to be fair to the delegation of Italy as it has raised the issue, that this decision was actually taken after this particular paragraph. Therefore, on this particular paragraph it would be up to the Members to decide what the extent of the support for this particular remark was.

My understanding is that there were many Members who expressed grave concern. We have been using "grave concern" instead of "deplored". Perhaps that might be incorporated in the text in its place. On this paragraph and this paragraph only we have not come to a decision on this.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Puis-je demander au représentant de l'Italie s'il est d'accord avec cette proposition de compromis faite par le Président du Comité de rédaction?

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**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEÛR (Maroc):** Les termes "majorité" ou "minorité", même s'ils reflètent souvent les débats de la séance, ne sont peut-être pas tout à fait appropriés. Ne pourrait-on pas dire "le Conseil en général"? C'est une formule que l'on emploie pour relater l'expression des vues de la majorité.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Puis-je respectueusement faire remarquer qu'il n'est pas opportun de toucher à des termes qui ont fait l'objet de très longues discussions en présence, notamment, du représentant de la France - ce n'est pas un mystère - et sur lesquels on était arrivé à un compromis.

Je sais qu'il n'est pas de tradition que les membres du Comité de rédaction prennent la parole et apportent des amendements à un texte sur lequel ils s'étaient mis d'accord. Mais si vous parlez de "majorité", "grande majorité", "très grande majorité", qu'est-ce que cela veut dire, en définitive? On rouvre ici un débat qui s'est déjà tenu au Comité de rédaction et dans lequel ce Comité a essayé de tenir compte de tous les points de vue. La meilleure solution, lorsqu'on s'est mis d'accord au sein du Comité de rédaction, c'est de maintenir cet accord, sans risquer de le remettre en cause.

Maintenant, si certains membres insistent pour que l'on change la formulation...

**Christian BERGER (France):** Je sais qu'il n'est pas dans l'habitude que des membres du Comité de rédaction interviennent en séance plénière au moment de l'adoption du rapport. Je crois quand même devoir souligner que, comme l'a dit le Président du Comité de rédaction, la philosophie avec laquelle ce Comité a abordé les points dans la suite du rapport n'avait pas été mise en place lorsque nous avons examiné spécifiquement ce point-là.

Vous remarquerez que, dans la suite du rapport, nous avons introduit la notion de "plusieurs membres" ou "certains membres". Ce n'est pas la philosophie que nous appliquions au début de nos travaux mais nous avons décidé que nous ne pouvions pas considérer que, lorsque certains membres ne s'étaient pas exprimés sur un sujet particulier, ils étaient nécessairement d'accord avec les points de vue exprimés par d'autres délégations.

C'est pour cela que, par la suite, s'agissant de la situation alimentaire mondiale, s'agissant de la réforme du système des Nations Unies, nous avons adopté une rédaction différente. C'est pourquoi je crois que nous pourrions revenir sur cette forme de rédaction.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Evidemment, si on passe de la géographie à la philosophie, cela va nous poser certains problèmes. On pourrait peut-être retenir une formule intermédiaire et dire: "Le Conseil en général a déploré...". C'est un terme qui devrait recevoir l'agrément des membres du Conseil; autrement, nous n'en sortirons pas. Si l'on discute la philosophie qui a éclairé le début des travaux et la fin des travaux du Comité de rédaction et si l'on étudie l'évolution de cette philosophie au cours des différentes séances, cela risque de nous mener très loin. Je demanderai donc au Président du Comité de rédaction si la forme "Le Conseil en général" rencontre son agrément.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** With regard to the proposal which you have made, which came from the delegate of Morocco, while I am hesitant to reopen the debate in this particular case, at subsequent stages in our discussions, as we tried to reflect this kind of philosophy which the delegate of France has just referred to, the term "in general" was used in occasions. It is therefore consistent with our general philosophy at a later stage. That being said, of course I am hesitant to change this, but, if it will help the members to move along, of course it would be consistent.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos a dar la palabra al Sr. Fernández Illanes, de Chile quien nos va a entregar la solución.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Chile):** Ojalá, Sr. Presidente, tuviera la solución; pero me temo que si hacemos un cambio en el sentido de colocar: que el Consejo en general, su mayoría, gran mayoría, en fin, lo que usted nos explicó muy bien, lo colocamos en el párrafo 13, va a crear dificultades en el 14, ya que, evidentemente la Ronda Uruguay de negociaciones comerciales multilaterales en que todo el Consejo se expresó en favor de avanzar en ello, parecería contradictorio desde el momento que dicha Ronda observa precisamente los problemas de la libertad de comercio, entre otros. De ahí, Sr. Presidente, que creo que el trabajo hecho por el Comité de Redacción ha sido excelente y llegó a una solución que, en principio al menos, a mi delegación y a otras muchas, creo nos satisface plenamente y preferiríamos que se mantuviera como está, ya que escuchamos que en otras partes también se hacen los matices necesarios.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Si nous nous mettions d'accord sur le maintien du texte, je crois que ce serait une formule de compromis. Nous n'allons pas remettre en cause tout un équilibre difficilement acquis. Y a-t-il des objections?

**Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy):** I did not pick up what you said, Mr Chairman. Did you mention a question of a compromise, or maintaining the text as it is?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous avez entendu la très sage intervention du représentant du Chili. Il a dit que, si nous modifiions quoi que ce soit au paragraphe 13, en dehors de la proposition de la Côte d'Ivoire, nous nous lancerions dans une discussion encore plus complexe sur le paragraphe 14.

Cette proposition est fort sage, plus sage que la mienne manifestement. Le représentant du Chili est quand même Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques; ses propositions sont donc fatalement empreintes d'une plus grande sagesse. Je propose donc de suivre non pas ma proposition mais la sienne.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais appuyer ce que vous venez de dire et, par là, ce qu'a dit mon ami du Chili. Je tiens à préciser que nous n'éprouvions aucune difficulté à accepter le paragraphe tel que formulé. Nous avons simplement présenté une formule de remplacement à une proposition qui avait été faite, dans un sens de compromis. Mais, nous-mêmes, nous sommes d'accord sur le paragraphe.



**LE PRESIDENT:** Est-ce que le représentant de l'Italie insiste?

**Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy):** For the sake of simplicity, we will accept that.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le paragraphe 13, tel qu'amendé par la Côte d'Ivoire est adopté.

Avant de passer au paragraphe 14, qui concerne les négociations d'Uruguay, je voudrais revenir au paragraphe 3 et à la suggestion du représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite. Je voudrais signaler que la terminologie, dans tous les documents des Nations Unies relatifs au point soulevé, est "conflit Iraq-Koweït". Peut-on retenir cette terminologie utilisée dans tous les documents des Nations Unies?

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Pour notre part, nous préférierions revenir à la formule du conflit dans la région, sans faire référence au conflit Iraq-Koweït.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La proposition venait de l'Arabie **Saoudite**. Je me range à cette proposition.

What is your opinion about the proposal of the Kingdom of Morocco not to use the term "Iraq-Kuwait conflict"?

**Walad A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of ) (Original language Arabic):** The subject is not geographical. The idea is to have cohesion in all the documents, to have the same terminology in all the documents of the United Nations.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** If you are going to have a cohesion terminology, and if you are going to use the word "Gulf", it should be "Persian Gulf" because that has already been adopted by the United Nations. Its official name is "Persian Gulf". However, if you are going to use other terminology and not mention "Gulf", you can do so. It is up to you. If you are going to use "Gulf", it should be "Persian Gulf".

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il me semble que l'Arabie Saoudite marque son accord. Je passe la parole au Royaume du Maroc mais je le prie instamment de se ranger à l'avis du représentant du Royaume d'Arabie **Saoudite** qui est l'auteur de la proposition de modification qui n'avait suscité aucune observation sur les autres bancs.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je pense que je dois respecter la requête introduite par mon ami le représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite, mais nous sommes partis du constat que dans les documents du Conseil des sessions précédentes, cette mention précise ne figurait pas. Si on veut l'intégrer aujourd'hui à ce niveau du rapport, je n'y vois pas d'inconvénient. En tous cas en 1990 et 1991, on ne retrouve pas cette mention précise dans les rapports du Conseil.

Ceci étant je ne vais pas aller contre l'amendement proposé par l'Arabie Saoudite.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En fait, il s'agit de la terminologie utilisée par les Nations Unies, à laquelle nous nous rangeons, en suivant la suggestion du représentant de l'Arabie **Saoudite** et à laquelle je demande à tous les membres de se rallier.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela):** En realidad, si nosotros hablamos de conflicto Irak-Kuwait, no estamos ni respondiendo a la verdad histórica, ni mucho menos a la verdad geográfica, porque nosotros acabamos de ver y presenciar hace poco tiempo, un conflicto que se podía haber generalizado o iniciado Iraq-Kuwait, pero el conflicto verdadero fue en el Golfo Pérsico, de manera que porque vamos a ignorar la historia. Todos nosotros sabemos que la extensión de los periodistas que siempre hablan lo que no puede ser cierto, hablan de la Guerra del Golfo, pero si nosotros vamos a referirnos aquí a la situación histórica producida en este conflicto, la verdad es que tenemos que **hablar** del conflicto en el Golfo Pérsico.

Nosotros vamos a manifestarnos por esta redacción y así lo apoyamos.

**LE PRESIDENT:** De la géographie, nous sommes passés à la philosophie et nous arrivons maintenant à l'histoire - histoire relativement récente!

Nous avons une proposition du représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite sur laquelle nous sommes arrivés à une formule de compromis avec le représentant de la République islamique d'Iran.

M. Moore, notre Conseiller juridique, a étudié la terminologie employée par les Nations Unies, terminologie qui me paraît satisfaisante. Le Royaume du Maroc a marqué son accord, et s'il y a eu certains flottements dans le passé, considérons que c'est de l'histoire, et oublions les flottements. Essayons de trouver une terminologie qui se rapproche de la terminologie habituellement utilisée dans la famille des Nations Unies.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** If you are talking about the conflict, you are right. You have to say whatever has been said in the United Nations. However, in one line before the line you were talking about the Near East is mentioned - that means the region and the conflict was that the region was the Persian Gulf. So if you are going to use "Near East" I will support the proposal made by my colleague from Morocco, in the region, in the area, refer to the Near East Region. But if you are going to look at the location of the conflict as the Persian Gulf as mentioned by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Venezuela...

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I had been asked to check up what the situation was and what the usage was in the United Nations. Since we were referring here to a conflict rather than to an area, checking in the General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions referring to this, I have noted that the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Security Council intentionally avoided in their Resolutions any reference to the area, but used general terms such as - and

I will quote all of them - "situation between Iraq and Kuwait", "Kuwait and other countries of the region", etc. and, this time by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, "Iraq-Kuwait crisis" or "Iraq-Kuwait conflict".

Since we were referring specially to the conflict, rather than to the region, I would suggest that we should perhaps use the words "Iraq-Kuwait conflict".

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il va de soi que lorsqu'il y a un conflit, non seulement les pays engagés mais aussi tous les voisins souffrent de ce conflit. L'objection qui vient d'être soulevée ne me paraît pas très valable; quand nos frères souffrent, nous souffrons aussi. Cette souffrance est la conséquence inéluctable d'un conflit, limité dans le temps et pour lequel il existe une terminologie précise. Je propose de suivre la suggestion de notre Conseiller juridique et de clôturer le paragraphe 3 du REP/2.

Y a-t-il d'autres remarques? Adopté.

**Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland):** I think you will appreciate a very short comment concerning geography. This is a suggestion for a small amendment to the 4th sentence of this paragraph, if I am not mistaken; namely, the sentence which starts with the words "the Council urged". We should like to qualify this sentence, but stating from the very outset that we absolutely agree with the thrust of this sentence. However, we believe that it should be a little more selective. The point is that there are usually many sweeping statements concerning food assistance, food deliveries to these countries, whilst in the context of this paragraph of food aid and even more so in the context of food aid in cereals, I am quite positive that there are very few countries of Eastern and Central Europe which really need that type of assistance if at all.

Accordingly, I should like to suggest the insertion of two words "some countries" before the words "Eastern Europe and the former USSR". This will be the third line from the bottom of this paragraph. The sentence would read that the Council urged that food aid deliveries to developing countries should not be reduced as a result of the significant assistance requirements of some countries of Eastern Europe - and the text would continue as it stands.

As a matter of fact, Poland delivers humanitarian assistance to some other countries in the form of food aid and food aid cereals.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons au paragraphe 14 concernant les Négociations commerciales multilatérales de l'Uruguay Round du document CL 102/REP/2.

Y a-t-il des remarques concernant ce paragraphe? Pas de remarques. Adopté.

Paragraphe 15. Y a-t-il des remarques sur ce paragraphe? Adopté. Paragraphe 16.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En fait, la délégation de la Pologne propose d'ajouter deux mots: "some countries of Eastern Europe". Je pense que la remarque de la Pologne est parfaitement sage et justifiée et je propose à votre Conseil d'adopter ce paragraphe 16 tel qu'amendé par la Pologne.

Pas d'observations. Il est adopté.

Nous arrivons au paragraphe 17.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Un tout petit ajout, après le mot "rôle...": "le Conseil a été informé de la tendance actuelle de la production mondiale de poisson et a reconnu le rôle majeur que..." je vous remercie.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci de la suggestion de la Côte d'Ivoire. Dans le texte anglais, je mettrais: "recognized the major role...".

Pas d'autre remarque? Le paragraphe 17, amendé par la Côte d'Ivoire, est adopté.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** If I remember correctly, I think the role of fish as a food source was also stressed during the debate, so maybe we could add this element saying fisheries in the national economies and in the food supplies of many countries.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La suggestion de l'Allemagne est très sage. On aurait donc: "le rôle majeur and the food supply of...".

Je crois que le Comité de rédaction ne peut que marquer son accord sur ces deux amendements qui ne font que compléter le texte.

Le paragraphe 17, amendé par la Côte d'Ivoire et l'Allemagne, peut être considéré comme adopté.

Paragraphe 18:

Mes remerciements au Gouvernement du Mexique. Pas d'observations. Adopté. Paragraphe 19. Pas d'observations. Adopté. Paragraphe 20. Pas d'observations. Adopté.

Paragraphe 21. Pas d'observations. La Pologne demande la parole.

**Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland):** I should like to introduce a small amendment which I think is in line with the essence of this paragraph, although if I hesitate it means that probably my waiting at this moment is not ideal, because I should like to stress that this decision is also in conformity with the decisions of the last Regional Conference for Europe. If I hesitate it is because I do not necessarily want to confine my amendments solely to Europe. However, in the European context this paragraph is very important. That is why I would suggest since a proposal has to be made, either to add the words "in

conformity with the decisions of the European Regional Conference" or in the plural if you deem it proper to use "Regional Conferences". I apologize for leaving it open.

**LE PRESIDENT:** La meilleure suggestion serait peut-être d'ajouter une phrase: "Cette fonction importante a notamment été soulignée lors de la Conférence régionale sur l'Europe".

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** This particular point was not raised in the Drafting Committee. I think that it is really a question of reflecting both what was said and the appropriateness of the comment. I would refer to the Secretariat in this regard.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il y a un problème, c'est que les Conférences régionales sont des conférences qui en réfèrent à notre Conseil. Les rapports du Conseil réfèrent les débats du Conseil, sans se référer à des organismes subsidiaires. On pourrait peut-être souligner l'importance du rôle de la FAO dans le cadre du paragraphe 21 pour des économies en transformation.

**Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland):** I apologize for taking the floor for a second time, but generally we have not abused the time of this body.

I believe that there was a very important context of that nature during this Council Session, starting from the statement of the Director-General, and the responses of those countries which were strongly interested in that approach. I would definitely mention Poland in this context. I think the reference, putting it most generally, to the decisions of the European Regional Conference is appropriate, since I believe one of the main sentences there was exactly the agreement on providing greater policy advice and assistance to member countries in transition. The areas, I think, are identified very well, and the whole paragraph is very well structured. That is why I fear ruining it.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint pourrait nous faire une suggestion. Je lui donne la parole.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** The suggestion would be to add a sentence at the end of paragraph 21 that would read:

"In this regard, the Council recalled with interest the recommendations of the 1992 Regional Conferences."

**LE PRESIDENT:** Est-ce que la Pologne peut se déclarer satisfaite?

Je remercie M. Hjort de sa suggestion et je peux maintenant considérer le paragraphe 21 comme adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 21 not concluded.

Les paragraphes 1 à 21 sont en suspens.

Los párrafos 1 a 21 quedan pendientes.

PARAGRAPHS 22 TO 30

PARAGRAPHEs 22 A 30

PARRAFOS 22 A 30

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I would suggest adding one sentence in paragraph 27, in the seventh line. After the words "country-and-region specific" I would like the following sentence to be added:

"However, FAO should obtain the statistical information regarding household surveys from the Member States without incurring any additional costs".

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** This issue was not raised during the Drafting Committee deliberations. Once again, the Drafting Committee was extremely diligent to make sure that all the texts reflected the view of the Council as a whole. I think it is just a question of determining whether the particular item suggested by the delegate of India reflects the Council's view as a whole.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I should like to mention that I made such a submission in my statement, and this also forms part of the CFS Report.

**LE PRESIDENT:** C'est une excellente idée. Je me souviens que vous l'aviez formulée à propos de l'enquête sur la situation des ménages. Je suis un petit peu plus sceptique sur l'obtention de renseignements précis sans aucun coût supplémentaire, mais cela est peut-être un vœu. Je ne crois pas que ce soit un problème qui puisse susciter beaucoup de points de vue différents.

Il serait peut-être nécessaire de relire votre phrase.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** In the seventh line, after the word "specific", add:

"However, FAO should obtain statistical information regarding household surveys from the Member States without incurring any additional costs".

The idea is that the household surveys information should not be collected by FAO directly; it should be obtained from the Member Nations.

**CHAIRMAN:** Or sometimes with the support of FAO. Perhaps we could add something like "without any substantial increase" or we could say "some" or "few". It is the function of FAO to help some countries. In India they do not have the problem, perhaps, but in some poorer countries it will be necessary to try to obtain the support of FAO in this matter.

**Daudi NGELAUTWA MWAKAWAGO (Tanzania):** I go along with the proposal by the delegate of India, but I would suggest leaving out "costs" so it would be "household surveys from Member States" - period. The question of costs is a detail.

**CHAIRMAN:** It is also important; it is not a detail, but your suggestion is good.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** I think the formulation is acceptable with the addition of one word, so that it reads "without incurring appreciable additional costs".

**CHAIRMAN:** Can you agree, Mr Bhagwan, with the proposal? Vishnu **BHAGWAN (India):** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any more observations about this paragraph?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le paragraphe 27 est adopté avec l'amendement apporté par le représentant de l'Inde, tel qu'il a été sous-amendé ultérieurement.

Nous passons au paragraphe 28.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je voudrais m'arrêter à la première phrase du paragraphe 28. En français, la phrase ne me paraît pas très correcte. Il est dit: "Le Conseil a suggéré au Comité d'avoir examiné..."

**LE PRESIDENT:** Votre remarque est tout à fait fondée. La traduction française est très vilaine. Le texte anglais me paraît par contre très bon. Le Secrétariat veillera à trouver une formule française tout à fait élégante. Je crois que le Président du Comité de rédaction partage mon point de vue.

Les paragraphes 28, 29 et 30 sont adoptés.

Paragraphs 22 to 30. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 30. ainsi amendés, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 22 a 30. así enmendados, son aprobados

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il nous reste la proposition d'amendement concernant le paragraphe 2.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Señor Presidente, creo que no se me entendió. No estamos planteando una enmienda, estamos planteando un párrafo nuevo. Estamos planteando un párrafo 22. Es un párrafo completamente nuevo que, si se me

permite, lo más exacto sería que fuera entre el 14 y el 15. Esta es nuestra proposición, que ya elevamos al Comité de Redacción.

**LE PRESIDENT:** C'est une suggestion nouvelle. Le Comité de rédaction va se réunir à l'heure du déjeuner. Je proposerai que cette proposition soit renvoyée au Comité de rédaction qui pourrait l'examiner. Cela permettrait de ne pas trop retarder les travaux du Conseil.

Le Comité de rédaction fera une proposition sur ce que vient de dire l'Ambassadeur de Cuba. Il l'écouterà bien sûr avant de faire sa proposition. Donc le débat est ouvert sur ce point.

Draft Report - Part II. not concluded.

Le projet de rapport - Deuxième partie, est en suspens.

El proyecto de informe - Parte II. queda pendiente.

DRAFT REPORT - PART III

PROJET DE RAPPORT - TROISIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 7

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 7

PARRAFOS 1 A 7

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous allons passer maintenant au REP/3, sur le point 7 de notre ordre du jour.

Je salue la présence du Dr. Mahler qui nous avait présenté ce point des activités de la FAO relatives à l'environnement et au développement durable: rapport intérimaire sur l'application de la Résolution 2/91.

**Ricardo VELASQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Disculpe, Sr. Presidente, no quisiera intervenir, dado que México es miembro del Comité de Redacción y no es nuestra costumbre hacerlo. Simplemente rogar a la Mesa y rogar a mis compañeros del Consejo que nos permitiesen revisar algunas cuestiones, no de fondo, sino de interpretación de palabras del inglés al español con la Secretaría y si no hay inconveniente lo haremos así al final.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** This is another case of something which has been missed out in the final printing. At the end of the second sentence in this paragraph, after the words "responsible fisheries", the words "was confirmed" should be inserted. The phrase is not complete without it. It is just a printing error, Mr Chairman.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** Mr Chairman, as regards the Fourth International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, the last sentence of paragraph 7, I would like to include here the full name and change the text as follows. "The preparation of the Fourth International Technical Conference for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources".



**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** La traduction française de l'intervention du Président du Comité de rédaction n'a pas été complète. Pourrait-il répéter son intervention?

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** It was suggested that this would be changed to the Fourth International Conference for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources.

**CHAIRMAN:** That is not a problem. The suggestion of Germany is adopted. It is only your suggestion for the English text which is queried.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** In the English text after the end of the second sentence, after "responsible fisheries", we would insert the words "was confirmed". It is just a typing error, Mr Chairman. The sentence in the English text is not correct without it.

**Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** Sir, it might perhaps be better to make a slight alteration to that sentence by beginning that sentence, "The Council endorsed the priority to be given" rather than separating the subject and the verb by those four lines.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Cela devient une matière de compétence exclusive et par conséquent la virgule est retirée - certainement avec l'accord et le sourire de l'Allemagne...

Je pense que M. Sinaceur, du Royaume du Maroc, est d'accord avec l'interprétation et la correction apportées au texte français.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Oui, Monsieur le Président.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Est-ce que le paragraphe est adopté? La parole est au Président du Comité de rédaction.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que la proposition du représentant de Trinité-et-Tobago est acceptée. Le paragraphe 7, tel qu'amendé par le Représentant de Trinité-et-Tobago, par l'Allemagne, et avec le complément apporté dans le texte anglais par le Président du Comité de rédaction, est-il adopté? Adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 7. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7. así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report - Part III, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Troisième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 13

PARAGRAPHS 1 A 13

PARRAFOS 1 A 13

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** First of all, Mr Chairman, there are two additions I would just like to make. These again are typing errors, and printing errors in one case. In paragraph 4 the last sentence in English, after the word "practices" there should be a comma.

More importantly, I think in paragraph 11 a short phrase has been left out in the English text. It would come after "surveillance capacities" and it would read "for all fisheries,". This was just left out. This was agreed by the Drafting Committee but was left out by the printers; "The council agreed that there was a need to strengthen monitoring control, and surveillance capacities for all fisheries stocks".

I would just like to mention to the Members of the Council that this item was discussed at great length. This was our most lengthy and complete discussion during the course of the debates. It took almost six hours over two sessions and I hope that we have done a good job in dealing with how best this very sensitive issue is reflected in this Council.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement le Président du Comité de rédaction de sa précision. Il s'agit d'un texte qui a retenu très longuement l'attention du Comité de rédaction. C'est un texte équilibré auquel il faudrait éviter d'apporter des ajouts ou des modifications. Il aurait pu être adopté en bloc mais je crois qu'il est préférable de le faire point par point.

Paragraphe 1: Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 2: Faits nouveaux importants. Adopté.

Paragraphe 3: Déclaration de Cancún, au Mexique. Adopté.

Paragraphe 4: Adopté.

Paragraphe 5: Code international du conduite. Adopté.

Paragraphe 6: Pas d'observations? Adopté.

Paragraphe 7: Adopté.

Paragraphe 8: Adopté.

Paragraphe 9: Pêche en haute mer. Adopté.Paragraphe 10: Adopté.

Paragraphe 11: Avec l'ajout apporté par le Président du Comité de rédaction. Dans le texte français du paragraphe 11, on ajoute, après "surveillance": "sur tous les stocks halieutiques, y compris".

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** En fait, je souhaiterais que l'on relise la première phrase du paragraphe 11.

**CHAIRMAN:** There was a need to strengthen monetary control and surveillance capacities on all fish stocks, including straddling stocks.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** It has just been pointed out to me by the Secretariat that "fisheries" is not the correct word; "fish" is the correct technical word. It is a minor difference.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** Je suis peut-être un peu fatigué - et c'est étonnant parce qu'il n'est pas midi - mais je n'ai pas encore pu suivre. C'est complètement différent de ce que l'on a dans le projet. Pourrait-on relire encore cette phrase?

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Nous n'avons pas participé aux travaux du Comité de rédaction; nous ne savons donc pas ce qui s'est passé au cours du débat sur cette question. A première vue, cet amendement ne change pas grand-chose. On dit: "notamment pour les stocks". Evidemment, cela concerne les stocks halieutiques en général. Je ne vois pas ce que cet ajout apporte au texte.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il ne s'agit pas d'un amendement mais, en fait, de mots qui n'ont pas été repris dans le texte. Cela me paraît très différent. Si vous dites: "Le Conseil est convenu qu'il fallait renforcer les moyens de suivi, de contrôle et de surveillance, notamment pour les stocks vivant à cheval sur plusieurs zones", il va de soi qu'il faut des mesures de suivi, de contrôle et de surveillance sur tous les stocks, y compris, etc. Il s'agit d'un oubli dans le texte mais pas d'un amendement. Est-ce que nous sommes bien d'accord?

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Je ne voudrais pas alourdir le débat mais faire remarquer, comme défenseur de la langue française, que de toute façon, depuis le début, il y a beaucoup de problèmes d'expression en français. Nous proposons donc à des collègues africains de nous aider à relire ensemble le texte et la traduction française parce qu'il y a souvent des choses qui se comprennent mal ou qui ne traduisent pas exactement le texte anglais. Mais nous ferons ce travail après.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois avoir dit au départ que j'avais moi-même remarqué, en lisant le texte français, qu'il y avait beaucoup de phrases mal bâties. Je suis le texte anglais. On procédera ensuite non seulement avec le concours des collègues africains mais aussi celui du Secrétariat, très compétent, à une meilleure traduction non seulement en français mais également en espagnol, où il y a autant d'erreurs qu'en français. Il doit également y avoir certains

problèmes en arabe et en chinois. Disons que les travaux de nettoyage et de correction seront assurés sous l'égide du Secrétariat avec, bien sûr, la collaboration de toutes les bonnes volontés.

Compte tenu des remarques faites par le Président du Comité de rédaction, puis-je considérer que le paragraphe 11 est adopté? Il en est ainsi.

Paragraphe 12: Capacité des pays en développement à participer à la pêche en haute mer. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 13: Pas de remarques?

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** Would it not be convenient for the sake of clarity to insert on the fifth line, after "Law of the Sea" a comma before "on straddling fish stocks", so as not to mix the name of the convention with the fish stock matter?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je pense que vous avez raison. Donc, après "droit de la mer", nous ajoutons une virgule.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** A propos de l'avant-dernière phrase de ce paragraphe - "Un certain nombre de délégations ont suggéré que la Conférence intergouvernementale se tienne au siège de la FAO - je crois qu'au cours du débat, un plus grand nombre de membres du Conseil se sont exprimés sur cette question. Alors, en disant "un certain nombre", est-ce que l'on reflète exactement la position des membres du Conseil?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que le texte anglais est un peu différent. Il dit: "A number of delegations". Si vous prenez la traduction française, qui n'est pas bonne, comme je l'ai signalé, "un certain nombre", cela veut dire "un petit nombre". Il y a une nuance entre le texte anglais et le texte français. Je ne sais pas si vous avez lu le texte arabe. En tout cas, le texte me semble refléter la réalité: "A number of delegations" me semble parfaitement idoine.

**Ole TOUGAARD (EEC):** Permit me to revert to the question of the insertion of a comma after the reference to "Law of the Sea". I am not quite sure that is correct because I think here we should - indeed I think that was the Drafting Committee's intention - refer directly to what was said in Rio. I am quoting from Agenda 21.17.50 from Rio which reads that the International Conference should deal with the "effective implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on straddling/fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks". There is no comma here and I think, in order to reflect exactly what was said in Rio, we should follow this wording.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Actually, like the French language, the English language has also taken a bit of a beating. I agree with the delegate of the EC that it does not require a comma. It does not make much of a difference but I think that is probably best without a comma because it is the correct format. I think the delegate of Germany is prepared to let this go. I think it is correct.

**LE PRESIDENT:** L'Allemagne ne peut pas insister...

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** I gladly withdraw due to the competence in language matters other have.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** This is not a comment on the paragraph per se.

La délégation de la France a regardé en détail ce paragraphe et soumis des corrections au Secrétariat, corrections dont il sera tenu compte dans le texte final. Je vous demande simplement un peu de patience, la version que vous avez devant vous sera corrigée en temps opportun par le Secrétariat en concertation avec la délégation française.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Primero pido disculpas a mis compañeros del Comité de Redacción por intervenir de nuevo. México, siendo miembro del Comité de Redacción, participó en estas sesiones en la persona de la Representante de Pesca, Sra. Margarita Lizarraga, en México, ella me ha enviado un fax de Paris, en el que me adjunta el primer borrador del Comité de Redacción y, en el párrafo 13 de ese borrador hay una frase que ya no viene ahora en esta nueva y última versión, yo le he preguntado al señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción y él no dice que no se trató el tema, pero yo quiero, en aras de una explicación que le debo a mi Secretaría de Pesca, que estemos seguros de ello. El texto del documento anterior, en la última oración del párrafo 13, decía: El Consejo dio instrucciones a la Secretaría para que comunicara esas opiniones a las Naciones Unidas. Este es el texto, que de acuerdo a la Sra. Lizarraga, se discutió y no tuvo modificación, y que no viene en el nuevo texto. Yo quería solamente preguntar esto.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Mme Lizarraga a une grande compétence dans le domaine de la pêche. Je vais demander au Président du Comité de rédaction de nous faire connaître son sentiment sur la phrase que vient de lire le représentant du Mexique et qui, je suppose, a été transmise par fax en réponse au projet de rapport.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I recognize that there may have been some confusion in the final adoption of this particular paragraph. As you can imagine, with a text which took so long to do, many delegations, particularly those in the Drafting Committee have gone over this with great care, and we managed to find only one significant mistake. Certainly I have both my own notes and the notes of the Secretariat. We have checked this at great length, and it is my understanding, and, I believe, the understanding of the entire Drafting Committee, that the sentence which the delegate of Mexico stated was not included. It is clearly barred in my notes.

**W. KRONE (Assistant Director General, a.i. Fisheries Department):** I can confirm that the sentence was in the draft prepared by the Secretariat but it was deleted in the redraft of this paragraph.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que cela n'ajoute pas grand chose. Peut-être que le Comité de rédaction, en collaboration avec le Mexique, pourrait arriver à un accord sur le texte du paragraphe 13. L'Argentine a la parole.

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentine):** Muy brevemente, siendo el otro país latinoamericano que formaba parte del Comité de Redacción, confirmo lo que dijo el señor Presidente.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Solamente para agradecer la explicación. Estamos conformes con ella.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le délégué du Mexique. Je sou mets à l'approbation du Conseil le paragraphe 13 sans la virgule.

Le paragraphe 13 est adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 13, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 13. así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report - Part IV. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Quatrième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte IV. así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT - CINQUIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 12

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 12

PARRAFOS 1 A 12

**LE PRESIDENT:** Pas de remarques sur le paragraphe 1? Adopté.

Paragraphe 2. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 3. Pas de remarques? Madagascar demande la parole.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** Le document en question est bien le REP/5? On parle de l'activité de la FAO et du PAM mais dans la version que je possède on parle du CMRADR. C'est bien de cela que l'on parle?

**LE PRESIDENT:** J'ai lu l'intitulé du chapeau qui bien sûr comprend de nombreuses matières. Pour le moment nous examinons le point 8 de l'ordre du jour, troisième rapport intérimaire sur le programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale de la réforme agraire et du développement rural et suite à donner à l'étude de la décennie suivant la Conférence mondiale de la réforme agraire et du développement rural. Nous sommes bien d'accord.

Y a-t-il d'autres remarques sur le paragraphe 3? Il est adopté.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Estoy mirando también a la izquierda.

Paragraphe 4. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 5. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 6. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 7. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 8. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 9. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 10. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 11. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 12. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 12 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 12 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 13 TO 30

PARAGRAPHERS 13 A 30

PARRAFOS 13 A 30

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous passons maintenant à la suite du rapport: Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies. Nous saluons la présence de Mme Killingsworth et nous demandons l'avis du Conseil sur le paragraphe 13. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 14. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 15. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 16. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 17. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 18. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 19. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 20. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 21. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 22. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 23. Pas de remarques? Le représentant du Royaume du Maroc demande la parole.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Concernant ce paragraphe 23, au cours de la séance, nous avons fait une intervention au nom des pays de la région qu'on ne retrouve pas ici de manière suffisamment claire. Le paragraphe est en effet très général, alors que nous avons été très précis.

Je souhaiterais avec votre permission et l'indulgence des membres du Conseil que l'on réserve ce paragraphe pour cette après-midi afin que je puisse consulter mes amis de la sous-région.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le paragraphe 23 du REP/5 est réservé.

Paragraphe 24. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 25. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 26. Pas de remarques? La parole est au représentant du Royaume du Maroc.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Comme vous pouvez le constater, à la fin de ce paragraphe il est dit: "le Conseil a été informé de l'état de la situation dans l'Organisation à cet égard".

Pour notre part nous souhaiterions que ces informations figurent dans le rapport; si elles ne peuvent pas être insérées dans ce paragraphe 26, qu'elles le soient au moins en annexe du rapport. Il me semble que c'est important, pour une fois que les choses sont formalisées.

**Ms K. KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for External Relations):** I did give the statistics in my answer. We could certainly put a phrase or sentence which we could submit to you at 2.30 hours containing those statistics for inclusion in the report.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le paragraphe 26 sera complété par la statistique souhaitée par le représentant du Royaume du Maroc et par conséquent les paragraphes 23 et 26 sont réservés.

Paragraphe 27. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 28. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 29. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 30. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphs 13 to 30 not concluded.

Les paragraphes 13 à 30 sont en suspens.

Los párrafos 13 a 30 quedan pendientes.



Draft Report - Part V. not concluded.

Le Projet de rapport - Cinquième partie, est en suspens.

El proyecto de informe - Parte V. queda pendiente.

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

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

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

17. Remuneration and Conditions of Service of Staff (continued)

17. Rémunération et conditions d'emploi du personnel (suite)

17. Remuneración y condiciones de servicio del personal (continuación)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quisiéramos pedir al distinguido representante de la República de Chile que presente el documento CL 102/LIM/2 a propósito del texto de la remuneración y condiciones de empleo del personal.

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Chile):** Sr Presidente, desearía simplemente poner a consideración del Consejo el documento que usted acaba de mencionar en el cual se relatan las condiciones sobre las cuales hemos trabajado y no abundar en apreciaciones al respecto, en vista de que se han tenido suficientes conversaciones con el resto de los países interesados en el tema, con las asociaciones del personal, más el inapreciable apoyo que hemos recibido de la Secretaría. Entiendo que hemos abundado suficientemente sobre la materia. Se ha llegado a un consenso muy aceptable a juicio de todos quienes hemos participado.

Desearía expresar el reconocimiento por parte de mi delegación en aquella pequeña responsabilidad que me ha tocado al respecto, pero que ha sido compartida con el resto de quienes participaron directamente en ella: delegados del Reino Unido, de Estados Unidos y de otras distinguidas delegaciones, así como el personal de la Secretaría.

También expresar que al respecto se mantuvo permanentemente informado en esta materia al Sr. Director General sobre todos aquellos aspectos que pudieran incidir en el manejo de la Organización o tuvieran algún tipo de implicaciones financieras.

Sin más, desearía, por mediación de usted, someter este documento de presentación a consideración del Consejo, esperando que obtenga su aprobación y dar las gracias a todos los que participaron en él.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchísimas gracias al distinguido representante de la República de Chile. He leído el documento en francés, en inglés, y también en castellano. El documento fue distribuido hace tiempo. Supongo que todos los Miembros del Consejo han tenido la posibilidad de leer, estudiar y meditar este documento. Después de la introducción del distinguido representante de Chile, quisiera pedir a los miembros que tengan algunas observaciones que las presenten al Consejo.

Je remercie tout particulièrement tous ceux qui ont contribué à trouver un texte, pour lequel j'ai beaucoup d'admiration et qui est particulièrement équilibré. Merci à tous ceux qui ont collaboré avec le très distingué représentant de la République du Chili.

Nous en avons terminé avec nos travaux de ce matin et avec la dix-huitième session plénière de notre Conseil.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.



**council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 102/PV/19

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Hundred and Second Session

Cent deuxième session

102º período de sesiones

NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
19ª SESION PLENARIA  
(20 November 1992)

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Antoine Saintraint, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures

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

Se abre la 19ª sesión plenaria a las 15 horas

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

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

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

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

17. Remuneration and Conditions of Service of Staff (continued)

17. Rémunération et conditions d'emploi du personnel (suite)

17. Remuneración y condiciones de servicio del personal (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je tiens à remercier le Comité de rédaction et son Président de la diligence de leur travail.

Suite au vœu émis à la fin de la séance de ce matin, je voudrais signaler qu'un intéressant document a été distribué, le document CL 102/LIM/2-Sup.1, concernant la rémunération et les conditions d'emploi du personnel. Ce document fait le résumé des discussions qui ont eu lieu, notamment au Comité financier. Il fait une synthèse du problème à l'intention de vos autorités. Vous-mêmes connaissez le problème, mais vos autorités, dans leurs capitales respectives, ont probablement besoin d'une synthèse rassemblée en un seul document. Cette synthèse est remarquablement faite et elle facilitera la compréhension du problème.

Je voudrais également signaler que j'ai reçu une lettre de Mme Margaret Eldon, dont je vous donne lecture.

"When the item on staff members has been concluded and if you consider it appropriate I would be grateful if you could convey the sincere thanks of the representative of the three recognized staff bodies to the Council Members for the time and consideration they have dedicated to these issues and for the constructive discussions that have taken place enabling all involved to reach a consensus. With many thanks."

Je m'associe, bien sûr, aux remerciements adressés à ceux qui ont travaillé pour obtenir un consensus en cette matière.

Il nous reste différents points à examiner pour conclure nos travaux de ce matin. Il s'agit tout d'abord d'insérer au paragraphe 3 du document CL 102/REP/1 un passage concernant la décision prise ce matin à propos de la République fédérative de Yougoslavie (Serbie et Monténégro).

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** The Drafting Committee did meet on this and the text has been finalized. I gather this text is now being printed for the Members of the Council and perhaps we could come back to that once we have the printed version.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Dès que le texte aura été distribué dans toutes les langues nous proposerons au Conseil de le lire et de l'adopter avec les corrections nécessaires.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT - PART II (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - DEUXIEME PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 21 (continued)

PARAGRAPHS 1 A 21 (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 A 21 (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Au REP/2 nous avons un paragraphe réservé suite à la proposition de l'Ambassadeur de Cuba.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** The Drafting Committee did meet on this matter at some length. There were considerable discussions and I think it can be said on behalf of the Drafting Committee that it was felt it should not have this kind of responsibility in the future but I will read out the text which the Drafting Committee has been able to prepare, with your directions, Sir.

It is as follows: "Two delegations expressed their opposition to the so-called Torricelli Law and its effects on Cuba. One delegation replied that this was a totally inappropriate matter for discussion in FAO Council." I can read it again if you wish.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to know where that will take place?

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** This particular phrase was meant. The Drafting Committee had no position on where this should go within the text. It was open. I seem to recall the delegation of Cuba suggested it go between paragraphs 14 and 15 but the Drafting Committee had no opinion on this.

**CHAIRMAN:** Would you like to read it again? I propose to put it between 14 and 15.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** "Two delegations expressed their opposition to the so-called Torricelli Law and its effects on Cuba. One delegation replied that this was a totally inappropriate matter for discussion in FAO Council."

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** There are two feelings I would like to convey at this time. The first is my respect for the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and his colleagues and my appreciation for the work done but in the second instance I must express a very keen disappointment that a matter which is essentially within the province of the domestic law of the

United States should find its way into a text which we have always tried to make the expression of consensus and agreement and harmony in this forum.

It seems to me, Mr Chairman, and I shall certainly not labour this point further, that this is a matter of domestic law as well as relations between the two states which should not be projected into a multilateral forum which seeks to have universal applicability of its positions, of its goals and of its statements. I, therefore, am constrained to protest and to oppose the inclusion of this text in the report.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Thank you, Sir, I think this is before the Members.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** I regret very much that the domestic legislation of any state should become the subject of discussion in this forum. I think this is a most dangerous precedent and something which threatens each and every member of this Organization.

If this statement is found in the Report, I can assure you, Mr President, that the United States will file a most vigorous protest against that and we will have to approach the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. Frankly, I would welcome the views of other states concerning the propriety or not of having such a statement in the text.

**Ms Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** I have just asked for the floor because I would like the Rapporteur to repeat the text at dictation speed because we could not get it down.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** "Two delegations expressed their opposition to the so-called Torricelli Law and its effects on Cuba. One delegation replied that this was a totally inappropriate matter for discussion in FAO Council".

Mr Chairman, I would just like to make it clear that there was a variety of opinions expressed during the Drafting Committee. I will not reflect these opinions. It is up to the Members to reflect those opinions but I would like to make it clear that the Drafting Committee responded to your direction to produce a text which could be presented, and this is it.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Sr. Presidente, nosotros somos el otro país que manifestó su desacuerdo con relación a la llamada Ley Torricelli, y lo hicimos, precisamente, porque por ser esta ley una ley interna de los Estados Unidos, no tiene justificación en ser aplicada a un país soberano, porque ello constituye una extralimitación, una extraterritorialidad del funcionamiento de una ley interna de un país sobre las relaciones con otro país.

En ese sentido, manifestamos nuestro desacuerdo, porque precisamente estamos en la misma relación, como lo ha expresado nuestro Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores públicamente. Es la verdad.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Sr. Presidente, creo que estas son las ventajas que tienen los organismos internacionales, donde todos los países pueden hablar con plena libertad y sin bloqueos.

Repetimos que estas disposiciones traen perjuicios y consecuencias económicas, no sólo para nuestro país, sino para otros países, atentando contra la libertad de comercio en la navegación y la propia soberanía de los Estados. Esto no es un problema nacional, esto es un problema que se escapa de una nación y de dos naciones. Traemos esto aquí, cuando hace 30 años que estamos luchando con una cuestión bilateral. Ahora se convierte en un bloqueo multilateral. Quisiera saber si esto no viola la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

No tenemos temor, podemos hablar con plena libertad y podemos decir y ya lo hemos repetido, que esto atenta contra la alimentación de niños, mujeres y ancianos de nuestro país.

El distinguido representante de los Estados Unidos pudo hablar con plena libertad, yo pido el mismo derecho.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** De una manera breve, quisiera que viéramos la proposición del Comité de Redacción, si Usted está satisfecho con la aclaración del Comité de Redacción.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Estoy plenamente satisfecho, hemos hecho miles de concesiones, pero esta es una cuestión que no es una declaración, esto es algo que ocurrió. ¿Qué miedo hay a que se pueda ocultar una cosa que ocurrió? ¿Cuál es el miedo? Solamente queremos reflejarla. Que dos delegaciones plantearon esto y con plena libertad ellos pudieron decir, lo que expusieron sencillamente, Sr. Presidente.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias Sr. Embajador de Cuba, no vamos a abrir el debate. Estamos discutiendo, por el momento, únicamente la proposición del Comité de Redacción y de su Presidente.

Sur la proposition du Comité de rédaction, il y a une proposition à faire. Vous pouvez la faire, mais rouvrir le débat sur le fond, je ne peux pas l'admettre et je ne l'admettrai pas. La question a été discutée. La déclaration a été faite. Elle a été appuyée, et maintenant on cite exactement ce qui s'est passé lors du débat général.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je voudrais simplement faire remarquer que nous avons toujours, vous l'avez dit vous-même tout à l'heure, procédé de la sorte. Lorsqu'une position d'un Etat Membre du Conseil déplaisait, ou était inamicale vis-à-vis d'un Etat Membre du Conseil, ce dernier avait le droit de répondre et de faire toutes les réserves. Le Comité de rédaction a travaillé longtemps sur cette question et sa proposition peut être acceptée parce qu'elle reflète les deux positions qui ont été exprimées au cours des débats. Nous ne pouvons pas discuter du fond de la question. Ce n'est pas à l'ordre du jour de notre Conseil, ce n'est pas l'endroit idéal. Mais pour aller de l'avant, je pense humblement, et la délégation du Maroc considère que cette proposition du Président du Comité de rédaction, qui est celle du Comité de

rédaction, dans son entier, peut être acceptable par tous et qu'on puisse aller de l'avant.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Je crois que les uns et les autres nous devons faire preuve de suite dans les idées. Ce matin, nous avons écouté un certain nombre de déclarations et nous avons compris que les pays concernés pouvaient s'adresser au Secrétariat afin que celui-ci examine, si j'ai bien compris, deux textes, pour trouver une formulation qui pourrait faire ressortir la position de l'une et de l'autre délégation.

La question est de savoir si le libellé formulé par le Comité de rédaction convient ou ne convient pas.

Je voudrais poser une question au Comité de rédaction: A-t-il reçu des projets de texte des deux délégations? Si oui, confirme-t-il que ce qu'il vient de lire, c'est ce qu'il a pu obtenir de mieux des deux textes qu'il aurait reçus?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous ne proposez rien d'autre que ce que j'ai dit. Le Président du Comité de rédaction ne doit pas révéler ce qui s'est passé au sein de ce Comité et qui a abouti à un compromis. Mais les membres du Comité de rédaction, étaient nombreux. Il y avait certainement des représentants de l'Afrique à ce Comité de rédaction. Vous aurez toutes les informations voulues. Mais je crois qu'il est un peu délicat pour le Président du Comité de rédaction, qui est arrivé à une formule de compromis, de dire que le texte reflète l'opinion d'un tel ou d'un tel.

Il y a eu une proposition du Comité de rédaction que le Comité de rédaction présente et dont j'accepte de prendre l'entière responsabilité. Ce qui s'est passé au Comité de rédaction, ce n'est pas au Président d'en débattre, en expliquant le point de vue des uns et des autres.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** J'aurais été heureux d'entendre le Président du Comité de rédaction. Vous avez dit que vous voulez procéder de cette façon sur votre propre responsabilité. Je suis d'accord, mais ce n'est pas au profit de la transparence. Il y a des choses qui nous échappent.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je propose de clôturer la liste des intervenants, puisque le débat ne peut avoir lieu qu'en séance plénière.

Auparavant, je donne la parole au représentant des Pays-Bas.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** My delegation regrets very much that we are having to spend so much time on this subject. We feel that the FAO Council is not the appropriate forum for a discussion of this topic. Therefore I propose that we delete the whole paragraph in this part of the report. I think the verbatim record of the discussion is sufficient.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I certainly do not want to enter into the substance of this debate. All I wanted to say was that I have been impressed over these two weeks at the way this Council has reached a compromise on some



fairly difficult and tricky issues. We are now at the end of our proceedings and we are faced with yet another tricky and controversial issue. I agree with the comments of the last speaker from the Netherlands that this is not the forum to deal with this situation. The views of all three parties are certainly on the verbatim record. I appeal to my friends and colleagues from Venezuela and Cuba, in a spirit of compromise, in order to end successfully this Council, which I think has achieved a lot of important things during these two weeks, to accept the suggestion made by my colleagues from the Netherlands and on this occasion simply delete this paragraph from the report.

**Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland):** I should like to second the proposal made by the Netherlands, because I believe there is a certain vision, a certain accepted format for the report, apart from the equal importance, and I share the views of other delegations on the need for expressing consensus decisions, policy orientation and things of a more general nature. Conversely, I do not find it necessary to include in the report rather than in the verbatim record language indicating some delegations saying something and other delegations replying to it.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I should like to respond, through you, Mr Chairman, to the delegate of the Congo. I think his question was perfectly legitimate, and I thank you, Sir, for accepting responsibility, but I should like to make it clear that the delegates who made up the Drafting Committee specifically asked me not to make any other remarks than those I made, and said that they would, as required, make remarks in the Council membership.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre intervention. Il y a un texte de compromis du Comité de rédaction qui ne fait que reprendre ce qui a été dit au cours de la séance plénière. Nous devons nous prononcer en toute clarté. Les pays qui sont d'accord avec le texte de compromis vont nous le faire savoir, ceux qui ne sont pas d'accord le diront également et ceux qui désirent s'abstenir le diront aussi. Il faut en terminer sur cette question.

Il y a une proposition du Comité de rédaction sur laquelle nous devons nous prononcer. J'estime que ce genre de question politique ne trouve pas sa place au sein de notre Conseil, que la remarque peut être faite, mais qu'il faut nous prononcer malgré tout, sur un débat qui a eu lieu, personne ne peut le nier. Nous devons arriver à terminer cette discussion.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** Is there not a way that we can reach consensus on this matter without going to the divisiveness of a distribution according to vote or according to views? It seems to me that there is. I am grateful to those delegations who have proposed deletion of this particular text. I would point out that there is more than ample illustration in the verbatim proceedings of the views of all delegations and that those who are interested in making some use of this point of the discussion will be able to present numerous pages of text to those to whom it might be of interest. Thus, if the intent of certain delegations here is to highlight, or to point out, a certain fact, there exists already sufficient material on the record, accurately transcribed, with which they may do so, so it is not as though the issue is being totally eliminated. It is just that

again we have proved several times in the course of this Council the ultimate value, the high value, of consensus and of the maintenance of consensus. I should hate to see us end on a note of divisiveness, even bitterness, of this kind.

**LE PRESIDENT:** J'ai été le premier à le déplorer.

Une autre formule serait peut-être de dire qu'au cours des débats on a parlé de cette loi Torricelli et que le problème est actuellement à l'examen de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, instance habilitée à en débattre. C'est une formule qui permettrait d'en sortir et également de rencontrer le point de vue des uns et des autres. Puisque cette question est soumise à une assemblée politique, et que nous ne sommes pas une assemblée politique, prenons simplement acte du fait que le débat a eu lieu, que le problème doit être réglé dans une instance politique, dans un cadre approprié, et non pas dans le cadre du Conseil.

Voy a pedir al Embajador de Cuba que pueda ayudarnos a encontrar ese consenso diciendo que hubo un debate a propósito, pero que el asunto está pendiente en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Sr Presidente, vamos a tratar de ser muy claros, y a su vez breves.

Creo que tratar de tachar esto aquí es como si quisiéramos taparnos los ojos todos, más que taparse los ojos, taparse los oídos, y decir que sencillamente esto no ocurrió.

Cuando estaba en el uso de la palabra en mi primera intervención, estaba tratando de demostrar con hechos que esto, más que un asunto político es un asunto económico para nosotros. Será un asunto político para el que trató y aprobó la ley. Para nosotros esto se puede traducir en hambre, porque los alimentos no entienden de política.

En un espíritu amplio hicimos una proposición, se nos dijo que era una proposición muy larga. Hicimos una proposición extraordinariamente pequeña, sin nombrar países, y nos pusimos en manos, con entera confianza, del Comité de Redacción. No intentamos tratar de influir al Comité de Redacción y le dijimos: Si nosotros dijimos esto y ellos dijeron esto, pongan las dos cosas. ¿Cuál es el miedo Sr. Presidente, de que se exponga una cosa que se dijo y se manifestó aquí? Que no es una declaración, que no se mienta a ningún país, ¿o hay que decir que esta ley no existe? Si esta ley no existe, yo la quito y si esta ley, al aplicarla, no a mi país sino a terceros países, redunde en la economía y en la alimentación de mi país y de otros, entonces no es una utopía, es una realidad.

Yo quisiera que los colegas pensaran profundamente en esto, pensaran en mi país y no pensaran en otra cosa.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Un punto de orden en la discusión del informe me parece extraño pero doy la palabra a Venezuela.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Perdóneme, Sr. Presidente, un punto de orden cabe en la discusión de este informe, en el del Senado y en el del Vaticano, un punto de orden viene de acuerdo en todo, y este punto de orden mío, se refiere, no a la discusión que estamos teniendo sino a la observación que se quiere hacer de que la FAO no es un foro político. Hace mucho tiempo, como cuatro o cinco años, teníamos la misma cantinela de que aquí no se discutían cuestiones políticas. Sr. Presidente, todos los días estamos en discusión de cuestiones políticas, de la economía, de la vida, de las realizaciones que se hacen en el mundo entero, en este foro, ya nos refiramos a las políticas de pesca, a las políticas de alimentos, a las políticas de todo.

Tenemos que referirnos a cuestiones políticas, que naturalmente vienen de otros ámbitos, que son los ámbitos económicos, los ámbitos sociales o los ámbitos técnicos. Por esa razón, yo quiero puntualizar que ese criterio que se tiene de que aquí en el foro de la FAO no se pueden discutir cuestiones políticas no es correcto.

**LE PRESIDENT:** L'article 12.20 du Règlement général prévoit que les motions d'ordre interviennent au cours de la discussion d'une question et pas au cours d'un rapport. Mais enfin, je veux être souple et je donne la parole aux Pays-Bas.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** If I understood you correctly, Mr Chairman, you made a proposal that we should put in the report a sentence to the effect that we discussed the matter but recognized that the issue was being discussed further in the General Assembly. I think that is a good compromise. I hope you could propose that to the meeting and ask for views on the proposal and that we can then finalize the discussion.

**LE PRESIDENT:** C'est une proposition qui me paraît sage, qui a provoqué une certaine réaction de la part du représentant de Cuba qui m'a fait comprendre qu'il n'était pas d'accord avec cette proposition sage, qui était de dire que cette question avait été débattue, qu'elle était à l'examen de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, ce qui permettait d'éviter une discussion plus approfondie sur cette question, qui est incontestablement politique, mais qui touche quand même aux intérêts de certains pays.

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** I just wanted to express our concern that we are getting somewhat off the topic and getting into precisely the type of debate that we are attempting to avoid.

In order to preserve the integrity of the Organization, we need to focus on what it is we are here to do. Given that we have a very strong divergence of opinion on this particular issue, I think we should recall the wise words of the United Kingdom delegate earlier when he appealed for a spirit of compromise on this issue, and then perhaps a suggestion that we might best

leave reference to this issue out of the debate. If, however, we cannot - and we do need some pointers to remind us that something has occurred - I wonder if it might not be appropriate simply to refer to the fact that the debate has occurred, and invite delegates who wish to rehearse the debate that has taken place, to refer to the full and accurate account contained in the verbatim report. I would have thought that that would be a middle ground which should appeal to everyone, and everyone's case would thereby be put.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Croyez bien, Monsieur le Président, que nous n'avons pas la prétention d'intervenir sur le fond mais uniquement sur la forme, ce qui nous permettrait d'aller de l'avant et de terminer nos travaux.

Mon expérience est limitée en la matière mais, généralement, lorsque des questions à très forte connotation politique de ce genre se posent dans une réunion de la FAO, on essaie de trouver une formule nuancée qui ne fait référence ni au nom des pays concernés ni au texte ou à la loi dont il est question. Une formule très nuancée, avec une note en bas de page qui renverrait aux procès-verbaux pour tous les détails des interventions, permettrait d'aller de l'avant.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Tout le monde fait des propositions sages, tout le monde essaie de trouver une formule. Il n'y a pas de formule idéale. On ne peut pas dire que l'on n'a jamais discuté de politique. Je me souviens de débats dans cette enceinte ou dans le cadre des activités du Programme alimentaire mondial dans lesquels a été abordé, par exemple, le problème de l'apartheid en Afrique du Sud. Nous avons pris alors - nous-mêmes étions à la présidence - des positions très claires dans un domaine difficile où les points de vue étaient parfois divergents.

Je vous proposerai le texte suivant:...that the so-called Torricelli law and its effects were referred to by three delegations in their statements... On peut renvoyer au procès-verbal dans lesquels cette discussion a eu lieu.... is before the General Assembly. We have the reference in the verbatim report and we have all the elements following the proposals of the different delegations.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** In its simplest form it would read: the Council noted that the so-called Torricelli law and its effects were referred to by three delegations in their statements. The Council noted that this matter is before the General Assembly.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vois que les représentants des Etats-Unis et du Bangladesh voudraient prendre la parole. Il faudrait essayer de raccourcir le débat.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** With respect to this phrase, may I suggest two things: the first is, for the sake of balance, the addition of a subordinate clause at the end of the first sentence? Thus: the Council noted that the so-called Torricelli law and its effects were referred to by three delegations in their statements, while others held that such discussion was inappropriate for a non-political forum such as the Council.

The second point I would make is to suggest that this be inserted as a footnote at the point of your designation, and I should like to make it clear that the United States is putting forward these suggestions, not as a compromise, but solely and uniquely in deference to this Council and to the progress of the work before it, because it is considerable.

**A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh):** In the event that this revised formulation is accepted, I have a slight amendment. In the second part of this formulation I would say that the Council "further" noted, in the first sentence "the Council noted" and in the second sentence I suggest we say "the Council further noted" instead of "the Council noted".

**LE PRESIDENT:** En bref, on note deux fois. On peut noter deux fois mais je crois que la dernière proposition qui vient d'être faite ne nous simplifie pas la tâche. Une proposition a été faite par le Secrétariat. Si cette proposition est amendée, sous-amendée, décortiquée, alors qu'elle consiste en une formule de compromis, je crois qu'il ne nous reste qu'à nous prononcer clairement de façon à éviter de poursuivre un débat. Il y a une proposition de compromis. Si l'on cherche le compromis du compromis, on n'en sortira jamais! Je lance un appel à tous les membres du Conseil qui ont fait des propositions sages pour que la formule présentée soit retenue.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Sí, Sr. Presidente. Porque nosotros somos de la opinión de que no podemos calificar a este foro como político. He querido hacer esta salvedad y dejar constancia de mi criterio al respecto.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Hago uso de la palabra, Sr. Presidente, solamente porque otro miembro del Comité lo hizo antes que yo, y porque ya se ha rebasado la propuesta hecha por el Comité de Redacción. Siento que la propuesta hecha por la Mesa, la última que leyó el Sr. Hjort reúne todos los requisitos que pueden satisfacer a las partes.

Yo rogaría, Sr. Presidente, a las delegaciones de Estados Unidos y de Cuba que aceptaran la propuesta porque me parece que cubre los elementos y se refiere a las actas que contienen todas las discusiones que se han tenido en este Consejo.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ma qualité de Président, je vais faire une proposition. M. Hjort et moi-même avons lu et relu ce texte. Certains, dans un esprit de conciliation, essaient d'amender et de sous-amender ce texte. Le terme "further" qui a été proposé par le Bangladesh peut être accepté, bien sûr, parce qu'il ne pose de problème ni politique ni autre. Il s'agit d'une amélioration de langage. Nous allons nous prononcer sur le texte proposé parce qu'il faut en terminer.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** La delegación de Cuba, Sr. Presidente, sí siente respeto verdadero por este foro. Sencillamente, sin prepotencia y conciliadoramente, aceptó la propuesta de los distinguidos representantes del Comité de Redacción. Ahora, conciliadoramente, también acepta esta proposición.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** I would suggest the re-reading of the entire text including my proposal which, as I understand it or misunderstand it, was found acceptable.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** The text as I read it before would read "the Council noted that the so-called Torricelli law and its effects were referred to by three delegations in their statements. The Council further noted that this matter is before the General Assembly.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** I would like to say that whilst the suggestion of Bangladesh was followed, mine was not. That was one reason why I asked for a re-reading.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il y a une proposition qui vient d'être relue pour la quatrième fois; elle me paraît très claire. La proposition du représentant des Etats-Unis ne me paraît pas recueillir l'agrément d'un certain nombre de délégations qui ont pris une position très claire et qui ont demandé que l'on retienne la formule de compromis telle quelle vient d'être proposée. Il faut en terminer: ou vous l'acceptez telle quelle, et tout le monde s'en réjouira, ou nous devons nous prononcer. C'est le jeu démocratique.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I will not make any point of order during the adoption of the Report. I just want to come back to my original proposal to delete the whole matter. It can be seen what a difference of view we have, and now we are starting to be a Drafting Committee. I think that is the wrong attitude for a plenary Council meeting. So we should delete the whole matter in the Report. We have the Verbatim Record.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le délégué des Pays-Bas, avec beaucoup de simplicité, propose de compliquer davantage la situation.

Nous avons un texte qui a été lu quatre fois. La proposition du représentant des Pays-Bas nous replacerait exactement au point de départ et nous aurions perdu plus d'une heure à discuter. Je propose donc que vous vous prononciez clairement après avoir entendu le Président du Comité de rédaction.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I listened very closely to the debate, and it is clear that not everything seems to be able to be taken into consideration in the various proposals which are in front of us. Therefore, I would make a suggestion. I am not defending what we have put forward but it did seem to meet some concerns and we tried very hard in the Drafting Committee to reflect what was actually said.

Therefore, what I would propose is, what we put forward as a proposal is that:

"Two delegations expressed their opposition to the so-called Torricelli Law and its effects on Cuba. One delegation replied that this was a totally inappropriate matter for discussion in FAO Council."

appear as a footnote.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** Thank you for your great indulgence, Mr Chairman.

The United States would be prepared to accept the suggestion made by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee but would like to add and believe that it is right to do so since the sentence refers to it - so the second sentence would therefore read:

"One delegation replied that this was a totally inappropriate matter for discussion in FAO Council, and strongly opposed its inclusion in this Report."

That is a matter of fact.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous proposez que l'on indique dans le rapport que vous vous opposez à l'inclusion de quelque chose qui sera marqué dans le rapport. Cela ne me semble pas une proposition très cohérente. Vous proposez une note en bas de page, un renvoi? Quelle est votre proposition précise? Je vous avoue que je n'ai pas très bien compris sa portée.

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** I suggest the addition of these words. Please bear with the United States. This matter is not of the United States' creation but of others. We are simply trying to be as accommodating to this Council as we possibly can in a matter which - we repeat - is totally outside the jurisdiction and domain of this Council.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je voudrais que vous relisiez votre proposition parce que je n'ai pas très bien compris sa portée. Il est clair que l'ensemble des délégués doivent savoir quel est le texte précis que vous proposez.

Le texte de conciliation qui avait été proposé par le Secrétariat de la FAO a été lu quatre fois avec beaucoup de minutie et de patience. Il constituait un compromis parfait. Alors, relisez, peut-être pas quatre fois, mais au moins une fois, le texte que vous proposez. Nous verrons s'il rencontre l'accord de tous..

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, with your indulgence I will read the whole thing:

"Two delegations expressed their opposition to the so-called Torricelli Law and its effects on Cuba. One delegation replied that this was a totally inappropriate matter for a discussion in FAO Council, and strongly opposed the inclusion of this matter in this Report."

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je crois que la portée de ce texte est exactement la même que celle de la formule de compromis. De toute façon, une délégation s'oppose à ce que cela figure dans le rapport, mais cela y figure quand même. Je crois que ce texte est tout à fait acceptable. Peut-être pourrait-on le relire une toute dernière fois pour que tout le monde ait bien compris sa portée? Je remercie tous ceux qui auront contribué à l'adoption d'un consensus qui me paraît tout proche.

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr Hjort, would you like to read the proposal made by Mr Marsh of the United States.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** As I understand it, this would now be a footnote. Exactly where it is footnoted I do not know, but it would be a footnote in the Report.

"Two delegations expressed their opposition to the so-called Torricelli Law and its effects on Cuba. One delegation replied that this was a totally inappropriate matter for discussion in FAO Council, and strongly opposed the inclusion of this matter in the Report."

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Señor Presidente, sinceramente admiro su paciencia. Sencillamente todo esto de oponerse sólidamente y todas esas cosas que quieran poner, que las pongan. Pero hay que poner y hay que aclarar una cosa. Dicen que ellos no trajeron esto aquí. Es que la Ley Torricelli no la hizo Cuba, no la aprobó Cuba. Sencillamente yo estoy de acuerdo con lo que aquí se ha dicho, siempre y cuando esté dentro del documento final y no a pie de página.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Cela figurera dans le document final; dans le texte anglais, à la page 5, et dans les mêmes caractères d'imprimerie que le texte du rapport. Puis-je considérer que cette proposition est acceptée? Je remercie tous les membres du Conseil de leur bonne volonté.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quisiera repetir que este texto de la página 5 del texto inglés, estará con la misma dimensión de letra, que todo el informe, para que todos sepan las posiciones de dos delegaciones y la posición de la tercera delegación.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Sigo sin entender, Sr. Presidente, va a estar aquí, pero no va a estar aquí. ¿Por qué no está dentro del informe, si eso se reflejó y se dijo en la sesión? No entiendo. Estoy de acuerdo que ellos hayan agregado todo lo que quieran agregar, estamos de acuerdo, pero que esté dentro del informe, sencilla y llanamente. Esa es la proposición de Cuba.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos a poner la proposición del distinguido representante de Estados Unidos de América dentro del párrafo 14 y 15 del informe con las mismas letras y con la misma dimensión. De acuerdo?

Paragraphs 1 to 21. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 21. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 21. así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report - Part II. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Deuxième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte II. así enmendado, es aprobado



DRAFT REPORT - PART V (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - CINQUIEME PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 13 TO 30 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 13 A 30 (suite)

PÁRRAFOS 13 A 30 (continuación)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos a empezar de nuevo con los dos párrafos reservados del documento 5, a la proposición del Reino de Marruecos, había una reserva en el párrafo 23 y otra al 26 del REP/5.

Nous allons maintenant examiner les deux paragraphes du CL 102/REP/5. Nous prenons le paragraphe 23 en premier. Le Maroc a la parole.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Au paragraphe 23 et plus précisément à la troisième phrase commençant par: "En ce qui concerne les conséquences possibles pour la FAO...", nous pensons que les propos que nous avons formulés sur cette question au cours des débats et au nom d'un groupe de pays, ne sont pas reflétés correctement. D'ailleurs, même si on avait voulu être fidèle à la réalité, cette phrase est beaucoup trop vague: "... que si la décision prise devait entraîner des responsabilités accrues pour la FAO, l'Organisation était bien armée...".

Nous avons surtout mis l'accent sur le fait que parmi les propositions faites à l'heure actuelle au sujet de la question du futur Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, deux avaient particulièrement retenu notre attention. L'une visait à ce que le Comité de sécurité alimentaire de la FAO soit renforcé et l'autre visait à un changement du rythme annuel des sessions du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation en un rythme bi-annuel à l'occasion de la Conférence générale de la FAO. A l'époque nous avons considéré que ces informations pouvaient présenter un intérêt pour notre Organisation.

C'est la raison pour laquelle, Monsieur le Président, et avec la permission des membres du Conseil, j'aimerais que cette phrase: "En ce qui concerne les conséquences possibles... ces responsabilités supplémentaires" soit supprimée et remplacée par celle que je vais vous proposer et qui viendrait après la première phrase: "Le Conseil a été informé... pour examen dans un proche avenir."

La phrase que je propose est la suivante: "Parmi les propositions, deux d'entre elles ont été accueillies favorablement par un certain nombre de délégations, notamment en ce qui concerne le renforcement du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire de la FAO, et la tenue des sessions du CMA à l'occasion de la Conférence générale de la FAO." On reprendrait ensuite la phrase: "Plusieurs membres ont informé le Conseil de la position qu'ils prendraient..." le reste sans changement.

**Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy):** Yes, we also agree that sentence saying, "with regard to possible implications for FAO" could be deleted from the record or at least should be modified after something has been added. We think, as a matter of fact, that the position some members would take in the debate in the General Assembly is just too short in comparison with the rest of the text.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je ne vois pas très bien ce que vous proposez. Faites une proposition précise et concrète sur le texte.

**Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy):** That sentence, "with regard to possible implications for FAO" and so on, could be deleted from the report.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** J'aimerais, avec votre permission, préciser l'amendement que nous avons apporté. Il ne s'agit plus de modifier une partie de la phrase: "En ce qui concerne les conséquences possibles pour la FAO..." puisque nous proposons de supprimer toute cette phrase et de la remplacer par celle que nous vous avons lue.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je regrette beaucoup! Il est dit au début du paragraphe 23: "Le Conseil a été informé...", mais le Conseil a été informé en ce qui concerne les conséquences possibles pour la FAO! Il n'est pas question de remettre en cause l'information qui a été donnée au Conseil. Il faut être très clair sur ce point. Quels que soient les motivations profondes et les intérêts personnels de quiconque, je crois que le Conseil a été informé. Il ne nous appartient pas de changer l'information qui a été donnée.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je ne pensais pas que le débat allait demander de notre part une telle ardeur. Il s'agit d'une proposition toute simple. Nous n'avons pas été informés par le Secrétariat, c'est le Maroc qui a évoqué ces deux propositions qui allaient avoir des conséquences positives sur la FAO. Nous pensions donc que nous étions en mesure de proposer une nouvelle formulation du texte, sauf si les membres du Conseil exprimaient un avis contraire.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous renforcez mon point de vue en ce sens que vous me dites que vous avez été informés, que vous avez participé à l'information. Par conséquent on ne peut pas nier que l'information ait été donnée. Si l'éclairage a également été apporté par le Maroc, nous ne pouvons que nous en féliciter.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** Chairman, this is really a ridiculous discussion which is going on at the moment. I have followed what is going on in New York and they are much further on than we are here. Why are we talking about the text? It is really ridiculous, Sir. I think you should bring the discussion to an end. Delete that sentence and do not replace it with anything else.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous dites que cette discussion est ridicule. Qui est ridicule? Vous visez quelqu'un?

Laughter

Rires

Risas

**LE PRESIDENT:** Reprenons la proposition marocaine. Je demande au Royaume du Maroc de faire une proposition précise.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Lorsque le débat prend une telle tournure, j'ai du mal à mettre mes idées au clair, Monsieur le Président, si vous vous en souvenez, dans le document il n'était même pas fait mention du rapport du Comité ad hoc. C'est Mme Killingsworth qui a eu la gentillesse de nous apporter les informations au cours de la présentation du sujet.

Nous avons parlé des conséquences positives concernant deux propositions. Si c'est ce que le paragraphe a voulu reprendre, nous considérons que l'idée n'est pas bien interprétée. Personne d'autre n'a parlé de conséquences possibles, positives ou négatives, pour l'Organisation. Nous pensons donc que ce paragraphe ne reflète pas ce qui a été dit par une délégation au nom du groupe de pays. C'est aussi simple que cela, Monsieur le Président, et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous demandions que cette phrase soit reformulée sur la base de celle que j'ai proposée aux membres du Conseil.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je crois qu'il est dans l'habitude du Conseil et d'autres organes de la FAO, lorsque la paternité d'une information revient à un pays, que ce soit ce pays-là qui puisse formuler sa pensée de façon précise. C'est la raison pour laquelle je pense que l'amendement proposé par mon collègue du Maroc est tout à fait recevable.

On peut se prononcer sur les termes et sur le fond mais on ne peut pas nier que c'est le Maroc qui nous a donné cette information et qu'il lui est tout à fait loisible de nous proposer un libellé qui nous paraît beaucoup plus correct que ce nous avons sous les yeux.

Pour ma part, je n'ai donc aucune difficulté à apporter mon appui à son amendement.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ce qui me concerne je n'ai émis aucun commentaire désobligeant à l'encontre du "père" de cette proposition.

Je vais demander à M. Hjort s'il n'a pas une solution de compromis à nous présenter.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR - GENERAL:** I wanted to confirm for the Council that, in fact, the points that have been made by the delegate for Morocco were stated during the debate. They were not the only ones. There were others that mentioned the possible implications strengthening the Committee on Food Security. Because the matter is in another body, Mr Chairman, there did not seem to be the desire to go into a lot of details. However, I see no problem myself in having a sentence inserted that reflects these views. The strengthening of the Committee on Food Security and the idea of Ministers of Agriculture meeting every two years during the FAO Conference clearly was stated, and so a sentence along the lines suggested by Morocco would seem to be satisfactory from that standpoint.

The other point, however, is that there is confusion obviously in the minds of some about the Council being informed. I was the one who informed the Council and the wording here is fully consistent with the information that I gave to the Council and, as a consequence, I would prefer that that sentence remains. That is simply informing the Council in response to the debate that had taken place. That is not in any way inconsistent with the idea of adding a sentence.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement le Directeur général adjoint des éclaircissements qu'il vient de nous donner. La proposition est faite d'accepter la phrase dont le Maroc a la paternité. Je vais demander au représentant du Maroc de bien vouloir relire cette phrase. Il y a une phrase que l'on propose d'ajouter mais je suggère de ne plus rien changer. La proposition du Maroc est de pouvoir conclure sur la base de son ajout.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Nous acceptons le fait qu'il ne soit pas de pratique courante de revenir sur le procès-verbal pour préciser la pensée des gens qui interviennent sur un point du rapport. Je ne voudrais pas aller jusqu'à m'opposer à une proposition émanant du Secrétariat. Je n'aime pas beaucoup le terme de "paternité" car c'est un groupe de pays qui est à l'origine de cette proposition. Si le Secrétariat considère qu'il a porté ces informations à l'attention du Conseil alors on pourrait garder cette phrase, en ce qui concerne les conséquences possibles pour la FAO, là où elle est, bien qu'à nos yeux elle ne représente pas grand chose pour la compréhension de la question, même si cela n'engage pas le Secrétariat.

Par contre, je maintiendrais que l'on ajoute la proposition que j'ai faite. Cette phrase viendrait après: "un document contenant les avis exprimés par les membres de ce Comité venait d'être présenté à l'Assemblée générale pour examen dans un proche avenir". Voici la phrase que j'ajouterai: "Parmi les propositions, deux d'entre elles, ont été accueillies favorablement par un certain nombre de délégués, notamment en ce qui concerne le renforcement du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire et la tenue des sessions du CMA à l'occasion de la Conférence générale de la FAO".

Lorsque nous disons: un certain nombre de délégations nous sommes renforcés dans cette idée par ce que vient de dire le Directeur général adjoint, que d'autres délégations parlaient aussi du renforcement du CSA.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je relis la proposition du délégué du Maroc. Après la première phrase on introduirait: "parmi les propositions, deux d'entre elles ont été accueillies favorablement par un certain nombre de délégués, notamment en ce qui concerne le renforcement du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire, et la tenue de sessions du CMA à l'occasion de la Conférence de la FAO".

Evidemment, ce texte préjuge un peu de la décision qui sera prise à New York en ce qui concerne le destin du CMA. Disons que la phrase n'est pas idéale, mais enfin nous rencontrons l'idée que les Ministres de l'agriculture puissent, à l'occasion de la Conférence de la FAO, se rencontrer, que ce soit dans la salle, hors de la salle, dans le rectangle, en dehors du rectangle c'est un autre problème. Nous n'avons pas à préjuger des décisions qui doivent être prises en dehors de nous. Et je crois que parler de la tenue des sessions du CMA, c'est un peu préjuger de l'avenir.

L'idée émise par le représentant du Maroc, c'est le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire et l'occasion pour les Ministres de l'agriculture de se rencontrer, de façon à avoir des débats fructueux au moment où ils doivent se rencontrer, lors de la Conférence de la FAO qui se tient tous les deux ans. Il ne faut pas préjuger des décisions prises dans d'autres enceintes.

Ce que vous voulez, c'est que les Ministres de l'agriculture puissent se rencontrer. Maintenant, si vous voulez dire qu'il faut des sessions du CMA en marge de la Conférence de la FAO, je crois que c'est aller un peu loin et qu'il y a peut-être une formule de compromis à trouver.

**Mustapha Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Comme vous l'avez dit vous même, Monsieur le Président, non seulement il ne faut pas préjuger des décisions qui vont être prises, mais ces décisions nous dépassent puisqu'elles seront prises à New York. Cela ne nous empêche pas de faire remarquer que nous avons regretté d'avoir été exclus du processus de réflexion sur la question. C'est tout à fait autre chose. Nous ne savons pas quelle décision va être prise. Nous ne savons pas quelle est la position des pays, s'agissant du futur. Nous retenons des idées. On n'a pas parlé de décision. Nous avons pensé que parmi les propositions, qu'elles soient retenues ou pas, certaines pourraient être intéressantes pour la FAO parce qu'elles consacraient le rôle de la FAO. C'est cela qui est important pour nous: consacrer le rôle de la FAO. Est-ce qu'on va prendre une décision définitive, irréversible? Nous ne le savons pas. Les discussions sont en cours à New York sur la question. Nous avons pensé faire partager aux membres du Conseil l'idée qu'il y avait deux propositions parmi certaines autres, qui pouvaient constituer pour la FAO un intérêt d'une importance significative. Mais nous ne nous prononçons pas sur ce que nous voulons faire du CMA. C'est un tout autre débat qui se déroule à New York.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Votre proposition est extrêmement constructive. Elle a été appréciée par l'ensemble des membres du Conseil. Je dis simplement que dans le libellé on se réfère à des sessions du CMA et que la question des sessions du CMA relève d'une autre instance que du Conseil de la FAO. Aussi si vous voulez reprendre votre idée qui a été émise par un certain nombre de pays, il y a lieu de permettre la tenue de sessions des Ministres de l'agriculture à l'occasion de la Conférence de la FAO. Je crois que cela me paraît être l'idée. Si vous anticipez sur les décisions prises par New York, cela me paraît hors de la compétence du Conseil.

Je vais me permettre de relire votre texte qui est un texte parfait et équilibré en le sous-amendant un petit peu. Voici ce que je dirais:

"Parmi les propositions, deux d'entre elles ont été accueillies favorablement par un certain nombre de délégués, notamment en ce qui concerne le renforcement du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et la tenue de réunions des Ministres de l'agriculture à l'occasion de la Conférence de la FAO".

Ce que vous souhaitez, et vous l'avez exprimé, c'est que les Ministres de l'agriculture puissent, de manière plus structurée, se rencontrer et travailler ensemble sur un certain nombre de points précis, à l'occasion de la Conférence, qui est quand même l'instance suprême où normalement se retrouvent les Ministres de l'agriculture.

Je vous demanderais maintenant de bien vouloir me faire une proposition définitive.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** D'après le brouhaha que vous avez sûrement dû entendre vous-même, ce débat n'intéresse pas beaucoup le Conseil; aussi j'aimerais abonder dans votre sens et accepter votre proposition pour permettre aux membres du Conseil de passer à autre chose.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie très vivement le représentant du Royaume du Maroc et je donne la parole au représentant de la République islamique d'Iran.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** I have actually become confused as to what has happened on this paragraph. What is it going to be? Is the last part of the sentence as proposed going to be kept in the report or not on the holding of the WFC Session on the occasion of the General Conference? What does it mean? As far as I know a general conference is something else and the WFC is holding a session which is something like that. I am confused. I would like to ask for clarification on this matter.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je reprends la proposition du représentant du Maroc qui consiste à maintenir dans son intégralité la première phrase du paragraphe du document REP/5 que je vais lire:

"Le Conseil a été informé que le Comité ad hoc créé par le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation (CMA) s'était réuni à New York à la mi-septembre pour examiner le mandat du CMA, ses fonctions et les options concernant son futur rôle, et qu'un document contenant les avis exprimés par les membres de ce Comité venait d'être présenté à l'Assemblée générale pour examen dans un proche avenir."

Voici maintenant la phrase du Royaume du Maroc:

"Parmi les propositions, deux d'entre elles ont été accueillies favorablement par un certain nombre de délégués, notamment en ce qui concerne le renforcement du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, et la tenue de réunions des Ministres de l'agriculture à l'occasion de la Conférence de la FAO." Nous reprenons ensuite le texte du Comité de rédaction.

Est-ce que j'ai été suffisamment clair?

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** I am really getting confused by all these amendments which are being put here. I am particularly confused by the words that indicate there are two proposals which were favourably received. This is a judgement which cannot be confirmed or disproved by this Committee.

I wonder whether we really have to put all this in the Report since it is a sort of value judgement that is being put in the Report. "It is well received" - by whom, by how many? What is well received by the Council? What is well received by some delegates in New York? What is well received by some delegates in our capitals?

Mr Chairman, we have no way of judging that. Certainly if that is read in our capitals it would cause a lot of confusion.

I have really no objection to this idea as to whether it is good or bad, whether the intrinsic value of these proposals should stand on their own value. Putting such a value judgement on it I think is inappropriate in the Report of a Committee like this.

With all due respect to my colleague from Morocco, I would beg that this sentence not be included because it would just complicate our Report and would not add anything at all, for the reasons I have already stated.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je déduis de l'intervention de M. Carandang qu'il désire sous-amender le texte du représentant du Maroc, en supprimant le mot "favorablement" qui est un jugement de valeur, mais on maintiendrait "...ont été accueillies par un certain nombre de délégués". Cela n'engage à rien et le texte est suffisamment souple pour ne heurter personne et rencontrer le souhait qui a été exprimé par le Maroc au nom d'un certain nombre de pays du Maghreb.

Est-ce que le représentant des Philippines peut se relier à cette formule qui supprime le mot "favorablement"?

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** I thought that it would be sufficient to say that the Council was informed of the positions they would be taking in the General Assembly debate. This might be sufficient. After all, if we tried to put everything that was said about the World Food Council or with regard to everything, then we would have no end. There would be too many things that we would be putting in this Report. I thought that probably we would be spared the details of these proposals. After all, we do not know the value of them.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Si je comprends bien, le délégué des Philippines souhaiterait que la proposition du Maroc soit rejetée. Or, la proposition du Maroc a déjà été édulcorée. Je crois qu'il faudrait trouver une formule de compromis entre la proposition marocaine et la position des Philippines.

Il est certain que le Maroc a fait cette proposition au nom de plusieurs pays. On ne peut nier qu'il l'ait faite. Si le Maroc désire insister pour maintenir cette phrase, je ne pourrai que lui donner satisfaction. Il en a le droit puisqu'il est à l'origine du lancement de cette idée.

M. Carandang émet une objection sur le thème "favorablement", parce qu'il n'y a pas eu de réaction de sa part, ou de la part d'autres pays, à la proposition marocaine.

Je donnerai la parole au Représentant du Maroc pour qu'il réponde au représentant des Philippines.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** J'avoue que cela me laisse perplexe, soit que j'aie des difficultés à me faire comprendre des collègues du Conseil, soit que nous manquions de réalisme.

Je n'étais pas le seul, pendant la discussion de ce point, à reconnaître que le CMA n'avait pas donné tous les résultats que nous attendions de lui. Cela n'a pas été dit seulement par le Maroc au nom d'un groupe de pays, mais également par d'autres délégués. Ici nous défendons des idées ou des principes. C'est le principe de ces propositions qui nous intéressent. Deux de ces propositions consacrent le rôle de la FAO. Nous avons dit clairement qu'il y avait des faits dont l'on aimerait que l'on prenne note. Si l'on doit en prendre note c'est dans le rapport.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Personnellement je crois que vous avez raison.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** I am still confused with regard to the second part of this proposal on the holding of the WFC session on the occasion of the general Conference. As far as I understand, that means that the WFC session should be one at the general Conference. If it is going to be like this, then we are deciding that WFC does not exist, but we are not in a position to make a decision whether WFC exists or not. I do not agree with the second part of this proposal.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Mais on ne parle pas du CMA dans la proposition faite par le Maroc. La discussion a eu lieu à propos du terme "favorablement". On pourrait peut-être trouver un autre terme et dire, par exemple, "ont été accueillies", si vous n'aimez pas le terme "favorablement" mais on ne préjuge en rien des décisions que nous n'avons pas à prendre et qui dépendent d'autres instances que la nôtre. Je crois que nous avons été suffisamment clairs et que M. Carandang a fait preuve de beaucoup de souplesse en ce qui concerne le terme "favorablement". On pourrait peut-être dire "ont été bien accueillies" plutôt que "favorablement". Je crois que cela rencontre l'assentiment du délégué du Maroc qui souhaite également que nous puissions conclure.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Monsieur le Président, vous avez dit "ont été très bien accueillies"?

**LE PRESIDENT:** "ont été bien accueillies".

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Oui, je peux accepter les termes "ont été bien accueillies" ou "ont été accueillies favorablement". On ne va pas discuter plus longtemps sur cela. Je suis prêt à vous aider. J'accepte donc "ont été bien accueillies par un certain nombre de délégations".

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie tout spécialement le représentant du Maroc et tous les intervenants. Je crois que nous pouvons considérer que le paragraphe 23, avec la phrase ajoutée par le Maroc, peut être adopté.

Nous passons à la seconde réserve, sur le paragraphe 26. Le représentant du Maroc avait suggéré que les statistiques concernant l'emploi du personnel féminin figurent en annexe ou dans le corps du rapport. Je crois que le problème peut être considéré comme réglé puisque Mme Killingsworth a bien



voulu annoncer qu'elle fera figurer les statistiques demandées au paragraphe 26.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** J'aimerais faciliter la tâche du Conseil. Peut-être que, dans le paragraphe lui-même, on pourrait mettre simplement deux pourcentages, s'agissant simplement des cadres et des services généraux; et le détail des informations serait donné en annexe, si Mme Killingsworth n'y voit pas d'inconvénient.

**Ms K. KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for External Relations):** I will read it through once. If it seems to meet everyone's satisfaction, I think it is probably not necessary to read it again at dictation speed. This would replace the last sentence of paragraph 26 and would read as follows:

"The Council was informed that priority continued to be accorded to increasing the percentage of women in the professional and higher categories and that in October 1992 women constituted 12.9 of total staff in these categories compared to 8.9% in 1983. The percentage was higher at headquarters, 19.4%, compared to 15.5% in 1983 and somewhat lower in regional and field locations."

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le paragraphe 26, tel que complété par ce qui vient d'être lu par Mme Killingsworth, est adopté.

Paragraphs 13 to 30, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 30, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 30, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report - Part V, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Cinquième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte V, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VI

PROJET DE RAPPORT - SIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 15

PARAGRAPHES 1 A 15

PARRAFOS 1 A 15

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le document CL 102/REP/6 traite des questions concernant le Programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration.

Paragraphe 1. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 2. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 3.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** It is with great trepidation that I should like to refer back to our discussions with regard to REP/2. It has come to my attention that there is some confusion between delegations as to the way in which we adopted the final text with regard to the Torricelli Law. I would appreciate it if you, Sir, could confirm what your decision was.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je répondrai ultérieurement. J'étais en train d'examiner le REP/6. Nous en sommes au paragraphe 3. Il est adopté.

Paragraphe 4. Il est adopté.

Paragraphe 5. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 6. Adopté.

Paragraphe 7. Adopté.

Paragraphe 8.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** J'aimerais faire une simple remarque, plus de forme que de fond. On parle de "priorités transversales notoires". C'est un terme qui n'est pas très élégant. Je crois que l'on pourrait biffer ces termes et dire tout simplement: "d'autres priorités telles que l'environnement...". Cela me paraît beaucoup plus élégant.

**LE PRESIDENT:** C'est à nouveau un problème de traduction. Vous me demanderiez d'expliquer de quoi il s'agit, je serais bien embarrassé. Le texte anglais est très clair: "cross-sectorial priorities". Il faudrait trouver une formule en français. L'Ambassadeur de France a peut-être déjà une formule?

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Oui: "Même des priorités intersectorielles telles que l'environnement...".

**LE PRESIDENT:** Cela me semble une bonne traduction. Le représentant de la Côte d'Ivoire est-il d'accord avec l'Ambassadeur de France?

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Evidemment. Ce n'est pas moi qui vais le reprendre.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous pourriez. Vous parlez un français éblouissant, cher ami.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Sur ce point, je suis ce que l'Ambassadeur de France nous propose.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le paragraphe 8 est adopté. Paragraphe 9. Adopté.

Paragraphe 10. Adopté. Paragraphe 11. Adopté. Paragraphe 12.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je pense que le Comité de rédaction a fait là un très bon travail parce qu'en fait, le paragraphe 12 vient un peu en contrepoids du paragraphe 11. Pour ma part, je souhaiterais qu'au début du paragraphe 12, au lieu de dire "d'autres membres ont souligné" - parce que vous remarquerez qu'au paragraphe 11, on a parlé de "quelques membres" - on dise "la majorité des membres du Conseil a souligné". C'est d'ailleurs la formule adoptée au paragraphe 9.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Quelle est votre proposition précise?

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** De mettre: "La majorité des Etats membres du Conseil a souligné".

**William H. MARSH (United States of America):** With all due respect to the distinguished representative of Cote d'Ivoire, we are not conducting a census here, we are instead reporting what took place, and none of us has taken a count. I suggest, therefore, that the use of certain indefinite terms has its advantages. The point of 11 and 12, as I understood it, was to show that certain divergencies of views took place. I think these become a bit too strong and inimical when it is said that "most", "many", "this", "that" "the other", and therefore "some" and "other" have been devised and used throughout the report, and I applaud the Drafting Committee for having used these terms, which I think are not tainted in any fashion but quite accurate, and therefore I would suggest that we retain the Drafting Committee's suggestions to the maximum extent possible throughout the Report.

**LE PRESIDENT:** On pourrait peut-être discuter de "some" et "many". En fait, il y a beaucoup de membres; on pourrait donc mettre "many members", sans parler de "majority of members". Mais on retomberait dans des discussions qui ont déjà duré de nombreuses heures.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Monsieur le Président, j'ai écouté notre ami des Etats-Unis. Je pense que ceux qui vont lire le rapport dans nos capitales doivent savoir exactement de quel côté se situe la majorité. On pourrait peut-être dire autre chose que "la majorité". Tous les membres du Conseil sont appelés à réfléchir là-dessus mais, comme je le disais, même au paragraphe 9, on parle bien de la majorité du Conseil, s'agissant du PCT. Je pense donc qu'il serait bon, à propos du Programme de travail et budget, de reprendre les mêmes termes, à savoir "la majorité des membres du Conseil".

**LE PRESIDENT:** "Many members" est une formule qui permettrait d'aller de l'avant. Etes-vous d'accord sur ces termes?

Le paragraphe 12 est adopté.

Paragraphe 13. Y a-t-il des remarques? Il est adopté. Paragraphe 14.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Là aussi, j'éprouve quelques difficultés. Le Secrétariat ou le Président du Comité de rédaction pourront peut-être m'éclairer davantage. Dans la deuxième phrase, on dit: "le Programme de travail approuvé, compte tenu des ressources dont dispose effectivement l'Organisation". Ma difficulté se situe au niveau du mot "effectivement". Je ne sais pas si ce mot reflète les disponibilités dont dispose le Directeur général lorsqu'on pense, par exemple, à la possibilité de recourir à des emprunts. Personne d'entre nous ne veut que la FAO recoure à des emprunts. Mais je pense que c'est une possibilité que la Conférence a donnée au Directeur général et qu'il faut en tenir compte.

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Je dois remarquer que vous avez lu le rapport avec une minutie que j'admire. En fait, votre proposition consiste à supprimer le mot "effectivement". Je vais demander au Conseil s'il marque son accord sur la suppression de ce mot. Pas de remarques? Le mot "effectivement" est supprimé. Le paragraphe 14 est adopté.

Paragraphe 15: Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 15. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 15. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15. así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 16 TO 23

PARAGRAPHERS 16 A 23

PARRAFOS 16 A 23

**LE PRÉSIDENT:** Nous prenons les paragraphes relatifs aux rapports des soixante-quatrième et soixante-cinquième sessions du Comité du Programme:

Paragraphe 16, Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 17. Adopté.

Paragraphe 18. Adopté.

Paragraphe 19: Hommage à M. Rabe. Adopté.

Paragraphe 20. Pas de remarques? Adopté.

Paragraphe 21. Adopté.

Paragraphe 22. Adopté.

Paragraphe 23.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** We certainly appreciate the fine work the Drafting Committee has done on this entire discussion of the Programme Committee, particularly the delicate issues on the Tropical Forest Action Programme which in prior Council sessions have caused us great difficulty.

We only have one concern with paragraph 23, although I would not describe it as being minor. The United States does not completely agree with the third point, in particular the last phrase of the first sentence. The third point starts with the words "empower the independent Chairman". The phrase with which we are concerned currently reads "preferably under Article VI.5 of the FAO Constitution." It is the end of that first sentence of point 3 to paragraph 23. That statement is not in accord with the statement made by the United States during the Council debate. We are completely aware that our view may be a minority one, nevertheless, our instructions on this matter are clear and they are reflected in PV/10, page 28. A summary of what we said in that verbatim text is that at this time we are unable to agree to the establishment of a Consultative Group under Article VI.5. If the last phrase of the first sentence were dropped we could certainly agree to it. In fact, we do not see any harm created by dropping this last phrase. Perhaps we could hear some other views on this.

That is the only concern we have with this entire REP.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** This one word was the result of a hard-won compromise. It is the result of perhaps three hours'work in the Drafting Committee. The word "preferably" indicates that, even though the ad hoc Committee clearly stated that it preferred Article VI.5 as indicated in paragraph 20 above, it was essential that FAO bring the co-sponsors back on board, and that there was a possibility that Article VI.5 may not be the best solution in the final analysis and that we should give the ability to all concerned to be able to assess that as they go on, but to state a clear preference for this Article as was the will of the ad hoc Committee. I just want to make that clear.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** On the same subject, my delegation prefers to keep the last part of that sentence and we prefer the word "preferably". However, if we have to change this, then I think the best word is "possibly" because we have not had a long discussion on this subject in the Council. We found a solution not to take a decision but to decide that which we can find on page 9 of this part of the document. So if necessary we can live with the word "possibly" instead of the word "preferably".

Another point in the same section is that you are empowered to consult a small number of representatives of member countries. We never gave any guidance to you as to which kind of country. I should like to say that it is a combination of recipient and donor countries. It is just advice and I think it is worthwhile that we express it.

**LE PRESIDENT:** En ce qui concerne votre proposition de changer le terme "de préférence" par "de manière possible", j'ai bien écouté l'ensemble du débat et j'ai entendu les positions prises par de nombreux pays. Certains ont conditionné leur participation au respect de la création du Groupe consultatif

dans le cadre de l'article VI. Il en a été ainsi du Brésil et d'une série d'autres délégations. Si l'on veut donner une image du débat après trois heures de discussion, la balance penche pour le terme "de préférence" tel qu'il a été exprimé très clairement par un bon nombre de pays. Je propose donc qu'on ne remette pas en cause une discussion de trois heures du Comité de rédaction sur un point qui pourrait entraîner quatre heures de débat pour aboutir finalement à une formule qui ne serait pas meilleure que celle proposée par le Comité de rédaction.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** La delegación de Brasil considera que esta parte del informe está bien formulada y presenta en el párrafo 23 resultados de nuestro debate sobre este punto. La delegación de Brasil considera que para que esta parte esté lo más clara posible nosotros preferiríamos eliminar la palabra "preferiblemente", en el párrafo 23, apartado tercero, porque yo me acuerdo muy bien que fue un largo debate y en el final del debate, el representante del Director General de la FAO hizo un resumen de las posiciones y el Consejo, en esta ocasión, adoptó las líneas del resumen del debate presentado por el señor representante del Director General de la FAO. En este resumen no había esta palabra "preferiblemente", se decía que el Grupo Consultivo debía ser creado bajo el artículo VI. 5 de la FAO. Yo me acuerdo también, que dos delegaciones hicieron reservas en cuanto a este punto. Si me acuerdo bien, fue la delegación de los Estados Unidos apoyada por la delegación de Canadá. De manera que yo creo que después de un largo debate, muchas preocupaciones y negociaciones debemos del Director General de la FAO, y sí podemos aceptar que se haga una nota bajo la página, decir que dos delegaciones presentaron su reservas en cuanto a la creación bajo el artículo VI.5.

**Gamal Mohamed AHMED (Sudan):** Actually, my intervention concerns the amendment which is put forward by the delegate of the United States. I agree completely with my colleague from Brazil that we should leave this part of the text as it is. In fact, I should like to tell you that the three hours taken in the Drafting Committee were around this particular point, and the word "preferably" was a compromise which gave consensus and was based on the fact that it is a preference of the ad hoc Group basically, and also the preference of the Council as it discussed the matter later. We believe that our understanding of the word "preferably" would open a whole range of options to be entertained by the new ad hoc Group which is going to be put forward by the Chairman. In the case that Article VI. 5 is not totally acceptable, then people could entertain other possibilities for an instrument for this problem. The word "preferably" was a difficult compromise which was put forward for that reason.

**CHAIRMAN:** It is not a new Group. It is the authorization for the Independent Chairman of the Council, with representatives of Member States, to present a document, and no more.

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** La délégation de Côte d'Ivoire voudrait inviter les membres du Conseil à ne pas perdre trop de temps sur ce texte, de nombreuses heures ayant déjà été consacrées à la rédaction de ce paragraphe.

Le délégué du Brésil et du Soudan m'ont précédé dans mes propos. Je crois que la formule "de préférence" utilisée ici est une formule transactionnelle qui correspond parfaitement à ce qui s'est passé au cours du débat.

C'est la raison pour laquelle je souhaite lancer un appel à nos amis des Etats-Unis notamment pour que ces mots "de préférence" soient maintenus.

Néanmoins, il est tout à fait dans leur droit d'insérer une note en bas de page - bien que je n'aime pas tellement les notes en bas de page.

Quant au texte lui-même, pour notre part, nous considérons que le Comité de rédaction a fait un excellent travail.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci au délégué de la Côte d'Ivoire. Je dois dire que je n'aime pas non plus les notes en bas de page mais c'est une formule comme une autre.

**Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** I just wanted to support the proposal made by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the delegate of the Sudan. This word was the result and output of more than three hours' discussion. We examined all the options and views on this matter and we found that this was the most appropriate word to put here. So I would like to support the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, as I was a member of that Committee.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Je voudrais simplement féliciter le Comité de rédaction et son Président d'avoir trouvé cette solution de compromis après trois heures de négociation.

Je voudrais en outre attirer l'attention de cette auguste assemblée sur le fait que lorsque les Présidents du Groupe de l'OCDE et du Groupe des 77 ont pris la parole à l'ouverture des débats sur cette question, ils ont tout simplement indiqué que le Groupe consultatif devrait être créé dans le cadre de l'article VI, point 5. Par conséquent cette proposition, qui figure dans le rapport, est vraiment une proposition de compromis et ne reflète pas la position initiale des Groupes 77 et OCDE.

Il serait raisonnable d'accepter cette proposition de compromis.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Merci à Madagascar pour son intervention. Avant de passer la parole aux Etats-Unis, je voudrais proposer une formule de transaction qui consisterait à faire figurer la seule note en bas de page disant que deux délégations ont souhaité que le terme "de préférence" ne figure pas dans le texte du paragraphe 23.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** I certainly appreciate the sensitivity of the issue and the fact that the Drafting Committee worked long and hard on this. Like others, we also would prefer not to have a footnote. In that regard, we thought that the proposal from the Netherlands of the use of the word "possibly" would be an excellent option. I am less inclined to thank anyone for proposing the type of footnote that we might want to provide. We would be prepared to provide a footnote, but it would be along the

following lines. This would be in accord with what we said in the PV that I had referenced earlier:

"The United States does not agree to the establishment of a Consultative Group under Article VI. 5 of the FAO Constitution until the United States determines the degree of partnership with other co-sponsors."

Clearly, in our view, having a statement suggesting that the Council preferred Article VI.5 is not consistent with our statement which says that we oppose doing it. Some people's use of the word "preferably" may be more open-ended than mine, but I think the word "possibly" would be an easy way to get us out of this.

The way I would see it now is that the two options are either to replace "preferably" with "possibly", or we would be prepared to use this footnote and move on.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I simply wanted to point out that the use of the word "preferably" gives the possibility of the Group being established under authority other than Article VI.5. After a very long debate, as has been repeatedly said, the word "preferably" was selected to take into account the intervention of the United States of America where they said, as has been said, that they would prefer not to have it established under Article VI.5.

The choice of the word "preferably" has the other members of this body leaning far over backwards to accommodate the view of the United States of America. In these circumstances, I do not understand why they cannot take the word "preferably" since it accommodates their position as well as everybody else's.

**LE PRESIDENT:** A partir du moment où un certain nombre, un nombre considérable de délégations se sont exprimées, qu'il s'agit d'une invitation au Président indépendant du Conseil, il est clair que, si avant que l'invitation n'ait été acceptée par ce dernier, certains désirent fermer la porte de manière définitive, je crois qu'il ne restera qu'à refuser l'invitation faite. Si la solution de compromis n'est pas retenue, je ne vois pas comment l'invitation faite pourra être acceptée. Je ne saurais pas être plus clair.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to get a compromise about the Drafting Committee's proposal.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** I appreciate that the Drafting Committee, after hearing the comments of the United States delegate just about one week ago, worked long and hard to develop language that accommodates all interests. I was very interested in Mr Hjort's use of the word "possible" or "possibility" as he was justifying the word "preferably". The view of the United States as reflected a week ago today was that we did not prefer this. To me, if we now reach a decision that says the Council unanimously prefers this course of action, it is not consistent with our intervention that says that we do not agree with it. No doubt Mr Hjort's understanding of the English language is more sophisticated than my own, but unfortunately I am just not in a position to agree that what we said last Friday on this very same item is in accord with saying now that the Council - which means all of the Council



- prefers this course of action. That is why I say that the use of the word "possibly" - while I know it would not be satisfactory to those who strongly prefer Article VI.5 - would satisfy us, because we do not rule it out either.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Avant de donner la parole à la Côte d'Ivoire, je voudrais que nous notions en bas de page, le souhait d'un pays de remplacer les mots "de préférence" par le mot "possible".

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Ma délégation n'aime pas tellement les notes de bas de page, mais c'est le droit d'une délégation de vouloir faire refléter son point de vue.

Personnellement, je pense que si nous devons accepter la note de bas de page proposée par la délégation des Etats-Unis, dans ce cas il faut biffer les mots "de préférence" et l'on pourrait dire tout simplement "en vertu de l'article VI.5 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO".

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous avez un peu compliqué la situation. Je donne la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I think that the word "preferably" again was a word which we reached after many, many long hours of debate. As you will recall, Sir, this issue was given to the Drafting Committee for its consideration and it was an incomplete debate. It was largely a procedural debate and the Drafting Committee paid a great deal of attention to being as faithful as possible to what was said and not to assume what different countries had or had not said. I think under these circumstances the word "preferably" should probably stand.

I think, while I respect the concern of the delegate of Côte d'Ivoire, in this particular case a footnote might be the best way of proceeding with regard to the United States, simply because we had an incomplete debate, and this would signal that the debate was actually incomplete. I do not think we discussed this in the Drafting Committee, actually, that this should necessarily seem to be something of great import so far as the Council report is concerned, but actually more accurate in terms of the incomplete and partial debate which we had. Therefore, I would suggest, and obviously it would be up to the United States as to which footnote they would like, that we keep the word "preferably" and that the United States enters a footnote clearly as to what it feels on this point. Thank you, Sir.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le texte serait le suivant: "une délégation a souhaité que les mots "de préférence" soient remplacés par le mot "possible".

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I also prefer the word "preferably" but I think it is better that we avoid a footnote. Once again I would like to explain why I proposed "possibly". As I said, I think you can find it in the verbatim; but without the UNDP, World Bank and other conferences there will not be a consultative group under Article VI. 5. So I prefer to have the word "possibly"

so that we can have the United States on board as well, otherwise I would also like to be mentioned in the footnote.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Donc, vous proposez de maintenir le terme "de préférence" avec une note en bas de page disant que l'une des délégations a demandé que ce terme soit remplacé par le terme "possible".

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Como ya se ha repetido, fue motivo de un debate muy largo dentro del Comité de Redacción. En español hay una diferencia muy grande entre "posiblemente" y "preferentemente".

Nosotros no aceptamos la palabra posiblemente, porque en español tiene una connotación totalmente distinta. A mayor abundamiento, el inicio del párrafo 23 ampara todas aquellas opiniones que no estuvieron de acuerdo con las propuestas de la Dirección General, cuando dice: "El Consejo tomó nota de las propuestas surgidas de los contactos oficiosos y, en general", esto quiere decir que no todos estuvieron de acuerdo con ellas. Eso salva cualquier situación y no es necesario el pie de página.

**Robert F. ANDRIGO (Canada):** No, I was just wondering if perhaps a slightly different formulation in the present paragraph might satisfy everybody. If, after the word "preferably", we insert "in the view of the majority of the Council", and then continue under Article VI.5; in other words it would read, "preferably, in the views of the majority of the Council, under Article VI.5". Would that satisfy the United States and other Members of the Council?

**LE PRESIDENT:** La proposition que j'ai faite, reprise par le Président du Comité de rédaction, est une proposition sage qui permettrait d'en terminer. Il faudrait suivre la suggestion du Comité de rédaction qui a consacré trois heures à cette question.

**Daniel Yonan KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je crois qu'il faut qu'on sorte de ce dilemme. La proposition faite par vous-même, Monsieur le Président, et reprise par le Comité de rédaction, consistant à accepter la note en bas de page des Etats-Unis et du Canada, permettrait d'avancer.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le Canada n'a pas parlé de note en bas de page.

**Daniel Yonan KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Il s'agit d'une ou deux délégations?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il faut le dire clairement...

Est-ce qu'il y a encore d'autres remarques?... Je crois que la suggestion du Président du Comité de rédaction nous amène à adopter le paragraphe 23 et à passer au REP/7.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** You do remember that I made an indication at the beginning of that sentence, "and empower the Independent Chairman, in consultation with a small number of representatives of member countries, both donor and recipient". I hope that this is acceptable.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je veux bien prendre tous les contacts voulus mais on a approuvé ce paragraphe, et je vous ai bien dit au départ que quand un paragraphe est approuvé cela veut dire qu'il est approuvé. Si on recommence la discussion sur un paragraphe approuvé, on va tout droit à une certaine confusion et à une confusion certaine.

Il n'y a pas de point d'ordre. Une fois pour toutes, relisez votre Règlement et l'utilisation des points d'ordre, parce que je vais faire voter sur un point d'ordre. Ce n'est pas un point d'ordre, mais par gentillesse je vous donne la parole. Je vous conseille cependant de relire votre Règlement dont le paragraphe 20 prévoit que les points d'ordre interviennent au cours de la discussion d'une question et que la recevabilité d'un point d'ordre est laissée à l'appréciation du Président; en cas de désaccord, on procède à un vote. C'est bien clair en ce qui concerne le point d'ordre.

Mais comme je veux que nous continuions dans une atmosphère courtoise et amicale, je vous donne la parole.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I do not want to quarrel with you. The only point was that the first hour was a Cuban affair, the second was a Moroccan affair, and now we have a tropical forest affair. So I think you must give me the room to make proposals as my colleagues did on other items. Under this item I only want to have an indication in the text about the way you composed the small group in your consultations in the preparation of COFU.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Le Maroc demande la parole sur l'affaire marocaine. Mais il n'y a pas d'affaire marocaine.

**Musptapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je ferai respectueusement remarquer au représentant des Pays-Bas qu'il n'y a pas d'affaire marocaine. Il n'y en a pas eu, il n'y en a pas, il n'y en aura pas. Il y a eu un amendement proposé par le Maroc qui a été longuement débattu avec l'aide du Secrétariat. Mais il n'y a pas d'affaire marocaine, je tiens à ce que cela soit clair.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je l'avais bien dit.

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** With regard to the suggestion by the representative of the Netherlands, while this was said I think that in the Drafting Committee we were looking very hard at the TFAP as an equal partnership and in that sense donors and recipients may not be the right way of approaching this. We are all working in this together and, therefore, I think the choice was to avoid that kind of hierarchy almost and just have a clear statement and leave it up to the Chairman.

There are very clear instructions in the verbatim about how this will be undertaken and so I would appeal for this to remain as it is.

Paragraphs 16 to 23, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 16 à 23, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 23, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report - Part VI, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Sixième Partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte VI, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VII

PROJET DE RAPPORT SEPTIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VII

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous prenons le document CL 102/REP/7. Je signale qu'il existe un corrigendum (CL 102/REP/7-Corr.1) par lequel on demande l'insertion de deux nouveaux paragraphes sur lesquels je reviendrai en temps opportun.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 5

PARAGRAPHES 1 A 5

PARRAFOS 1 A 5

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraphs 3 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 4 son aprobados

Paragraph 5 approved

Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé

El párrafo 5 es aprobado

Paragraphs 1 to 5 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 5 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 6 TO 8

PARAGRAPHES 6 A 8

PARRAFOS 6 A 8

**LE PRESIDENT:** Il y a maintenant un corrigendum qui prévoit d'insérer deux nouveaux paragraphes après le paragraphe 8; je les appellerai momentanément 8bis is et 8ter. La renumérotation sera effectuée ultérieurement par le Secrétariat.

Le paragraphe 8bis concerne l'indemnité du Président du Comité de recours. Pas de remarque? Adopté.

Le paragraphe 8ter concerne la structure et la composition du Comité financier. Y a-t-il des remarques à ce sujet?

Paragraphs 6 to 8. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 6 à 8. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 a 8. así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 TO 10

PARAGRAPHES 9 A 10

PARRAFOS 9 A 10

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** Mr Chairman, I just wanted to know whether you will have a title before paragraph 10?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Que suggérez-vous? Personnellement, je ne vois aucun inconvénient à ce que l'on mette un chapeau mais cela n'est pas indispensable. Cela n'apporte rien de mettre un chapeau. C'est aussi joli sans chapeau; avec une mantille, ce serait parfait.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** As this was not an Agenda Item, I was wondering whether you really need a title for that?

**LE PRESIDENT:** Si vous voulez mon sentiment personnel, il n'en faut pas. Je vous ai clairement exprimé mon point de vue à ce sujet en disant que le Règlement actuel du Comité financier permettrait à ce Comité d'ouvrir ses portes s'il l'estimait nécessaire. Mais cela n'empêche pas que certains membres ont émis le souhait que l'on rediscute de la question. Le Président du Comité financier, l'Ambassadeur Di Mottola, a parlé du danger qu'il y avait, compte tenu de l'équilibre entre les différentes régions, à s'engager dans un débat de ce genre. J'ai même dit que, si certains pays estimaient que leur représentant n'avait pas toutes les qualifications voulues dans le domaine financier, rien ne les empêchait de le remplacer. Cette possibilité existe. Certains membres se sont plaints de ne pas avoir de suppléant. Mais si un pays estime qu'il faut remplacer un membre du Comité qui n'est pas suffisamment compétent, il lui est loisible de le faire et le Conseil ratifie toujours a posteriori ces changements. Cela s'est fait pas plus tard qu'hier, cela peut se faire à l'avenir.

Normalement, étant donné que cette question n'était pas à l'ordre du jour, il vaudrait mieux ne pas avoir de chapeau - je suis tout à fait d'accord avec M. Carandang - à moins qu'un membre insiste pour en avoir un. Si l'on n'insiste pas, on supprimera le chapeau. Nous considérons donc que le paragraphe 8ter (paragraphe 10 dans le corrigendum) est adopté.

Paragraphs 9 and 10. including Annex, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 9 et 10. y compris l'Annexe, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 y 10. incluido el Anexo, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 11 TO 18

PARAGRAPHERS 11 A 18

PARRAFOS 11 a 18

Paragraphs 11 to 14 approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 14 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 14 son aprobados

Paragraph 15 approved

Le paragraphe 15 est approuvé

El párrafo 15 es aprobado

Paragraph 16 approved

Le paragraphe 16 est approuvé

El párrafo 16 es aprobado

Paragraphs 17 and 18 approved

Les paragraphes 17 et 18 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 y 18 son aprobados

Paragraphs 11 to 18 approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 18 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 18 son aprobados

Draft Report - Part VII, including Annex, as amended, adopted

Le projet de rapport - Septième partie, y compris l'Annexe, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El proyecto de informe - Parte VII, incluido el Anexo, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - HUITIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VIII

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 6

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 6

PARRAFOS 1 A 6

Paragraphs 1 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6 son aprobados

Draft Report - Part VII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Septième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte VII, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IX

PROJET DE RAPPORT - NEUVIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IX

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 24

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 24

PARRAFOS 1 A 24

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** With regard to paragraph 1, this is a point again where the printers missed some of the original text. It comes after "Millicent H. Fenwick who had...". We should add the words "died on 16 September 1992 and" - "who had been Ambassador of the United States of America" etc. This was just a slip-up in the printing.

Paragraph 1. as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 1. ainsi amendé, est adopté

El párrafo 1, así enmendado, es aprobado

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I wanted to note that this particular item was adopted en bloc by the Drafting Committee.

Paragraphs 2 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 2 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 2 a 4 son aprobados

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Propongo, Señor Presidente, que se adopte en bloque todo lo que se refiere al Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Del párrafo 5 al 19.

Paragraphs 5 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 19 son aprobados

Paragraph 20 approved

Le paragraphe 20 est approuvé

El párrafo 20 es aprobado

Paragraphs 21 to 23 approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 23 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 23 son aprobados

Paragraph 24 approved

Le paragraphe 24 est approuvé

El párrafo 24 es aprobado

Draft Report - Part IX. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Neuvième partie, ainsi amendé est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte IX. así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART X

PROJET DE RAPPORT - DIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE X

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 12

PARAGRAPHES 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 - Part X was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Dixième Partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte X, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART XI

PROJET DE RAPPORT ONZIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE XI

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 10

PARAGRAPHES 1 A 10

PARRAFOS 1 A 10

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 6 son aprobados

Paragraphs 7 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 9 son aprobados

Paragraph 10 approved

Le paragraphe 10 est approuvé

El párrafo 10 es aprobado

Draft Report - Part XI, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Onzième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte XI, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART XII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - DOUZIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE XII

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 17

PARAGRAPHES 1 A 17

PARRAFOS 1 A 17

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 to 7 approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 7 son aprobados

Paragraphs 8 to 12 approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 12 son aprobados

Paragraphs 13 to 15 approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 15 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 15 son aprobados



Paragraphs 16 and 17 approved

Les paragraphes 16 et 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 y 17 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 18 TO 21

PARAGRAPHERS 18 A 21

PARRAFOS 18 A 21

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** As the only delegation speaking on this particular Agenda Item, I should like to have the end of paragraph 20 changed in the following way, because I remember well that my delegation suggested joint sessions to be held of the Committee on Agriculture of ECE and the European Commission on Agriculture of FAO. We welcomed the formation of the new Joint Working Parties of FAO and ECE, and in addition my delegation suggested, in an endeavour to save costs in the future, if legally possible, that joint sessions should be organized alternatively of the Committee on Agriculture of ECE and European Commission on Agriculture of FAO. That should be changed.

**LE PRESIDENT:** C'est évidemment une suggestion pratique mais qui se traduirait par quelle proposition? Voulez-vous proposer un texte? Les considérations que vous avez émises sont parfaitement valables mais il faudrait qu'elles soient traduites dans un texte.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** It is just to reflect what our delegation said. The wording might be "and also suggested joint sessions of the ECE Committee on Agriculture and FAO European Commission on Agriculture on an alternative basis".

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I am not quite sure of the purpose of the words "on an alternative basis" unless it means that sessions should be held at the Headquarters or the seat of each of these bodies on an alternate basis. Could I suggest, with your indulgence, a form of words: "and also suggested that joint sessions of the joint working parties be hosted by the UN/ECE Committee on Agriculture and the FAO European Commission on Agriculture on an alternative basis at the normal respective meeting places of each body".

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Es simplemente, Sr. Presidente, para un punto de información, si es usted tan amable. Yo no tengo conocimientos de que exista una Comisión Europea de Agricultura de la FAO, específicamente europea. ¿Es que existe también una comisión específica de cada continente?. Hasta ahora no lo sabía. Si es así no tengo ninguna objeción que hacer; pero nos "reservamos" la posibilidad de hacerlo para otro continente.

**LE PRESIDENT:** C'est une Commission de l'agriculture CEE/ONU. Je réponds: oui.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Nos reservamos ese derecho para otra oportunidad.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Sólo para decirle, Sr. Presidente, que si se habla de FAO quiere decirse que abarca todo el conjunto de organismos agrícolas de la FAO. No hay necesidad de especificar nada más.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Es una asociación de un miembro.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** "And also suggested that joint sessions of the joint working parties be hosted by the UN/ECE Committee on Agriculture and the FAO European Commission on Agriculture on an alternative basis at the normal respective meeting places of each body."

**LE PRESIDENT:** Y a-t-il d'autres remarques sur la proposition faite par le représentant de l'Allemagne? Non. Le paragraphe 20 est adopté tel qu'amendé par l'Allemagne.

Paragraphs 18 to 21, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 18 à 21, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report - Part XII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Douzième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte XII, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART XIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - TREIZIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE XIII

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 5

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 5

PARRAFOS 1 A 5

Paragraphs 1 to 5 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 5 son aprobados

Draft Report - Part XIII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Treizième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte XIII, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART I (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DEL INFORME - PARTE I (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 2 to 7 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 2 à 7 (suite)

PARRAFOS 2 a 7 (continuación)

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous revenons maintenant au REP/1 concernant le point qui avait été réservé sur la participation de la République fédérative de Yougoslavie (Serbie et Montenegro).

Vous avez sous les yeux le document CL 102/REP/1. Nous avons un addendum qui propose d'insérer un paragraphe que nous pouvons intituler 3bis et qui s'inscrit entre les paragraphes 3 et 4.

Y a-t-il des remarques?

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** Solamente para dejar registrado en las actas del Consejo. Quería declarar que si esa cuestión fuera sometida a votación, la delegación de Brasil se abstendría.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Muy brevemente señor Presidente. Hemos leído muy atentamente este párrafo, eminentemente económico sobre la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria, pero por no poseer instrucciones de nuestro Gobierno, no podemos pronunciarnos en consecuencia tal como expresamos la vez anterior.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je proposerai une seconde note en bas de page. Le Brésil a déjà eu l'occasion d'expliquer que son pays s'était abstenu et que les raisons de cette abstention avaient été largement développées au cours des débats de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies à New York. Si nous tenons compte également de la réserve faite par le délégué de Cuba, nous pourrions faire une seconde note en bas de page pour apporter ces deux précisions.

Sous cette réserve, est-ce que des délégations désirent intervenir sur ce point?

**David DRAKE (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** With regard to the comments which have just been made by the delegates of Brazil and Cuba, this matter was raised in the Drafting Committee. The Drafting Committee felt that it was not necessary, given the fact that these reservations had already been expressed. However, the Drafting Committee did have another formulation which was available to be inserted, and we could use this, if you would like, Mr Chairman.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous avons fait un tour d'horizon complet et je pense que nous pouvons considérer ce point comme clos.

Paragraphs 2 to 7. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 2 à 7. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 2 a 7 así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report - Part I, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport - Première partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte I. así enmendado, es aprobado

**LE PRESIDENT:** Nous arrivons au terme de nos débats. J'ai expliqué en début de séance la portée du document présentant le problème du personnel. Vous avez en référence le document CL 102/LIM/2-Sup. 1 qui fait une synthèse de la question. C'est un document qui aura certainement retenu l'attention de tous, que vous aurez l'occasion de lire et de méditer dans les jours qui viennent

et que nous pouvons considérer comme adopté puisqu'il s'agit de matières non controversées et qu'un texte soumis au vote a été adopté.

Il me reste un devoir important, celui de saluer les membres sortants. C'est la dernière session du Conseil de 1992 et certains membres qui ont apporté une contribution importante à nos travaux vont nous quitter. Il s'agit des pays suivants: le Cameroun, le Ghana, le Royaume du Maroc, les Pays-Bas, la Pologne, le Portugal. Un certain nombre de ces pays sont sortants mais en même temps entrants. Il s'agit: du Brésil, du Canada, de la Colombie, du Congo, de Cuba, des Etats-Unis, du Liban, de la Libye, de Madagascar, du Mexique et de Trinité-et-Tobago.

Je remercie ceux qui sortent et souhaite la bienvenue à ceux qui entrent. L'un des membres sortants souhaite prendre la parole.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** This is probably the last time that my delegation will take the floor as a Council member during this century. I will not be sentimental but I should just like to give you the historical perspective if nothing changes.

Needless to say, the Netherlands is very happy that our closest neighbour, the Kingdom of Belgium, will be a Council member from 1 January 1993. Therefore, we are looking forward to collaborating a lot with the representatives of your own country, Mr Chairman. I do not think that will make your life any easier, but I hope so!

**CHAIRMAN:** I am sure that it will be easier in the future.

Laughter

Rires

Risas

**J.R. TURKSON (Ghana):** As we are about to leave the Council, I must express my warmest gratitude to all Council members, and especially to you, Mr Chairman. You have really performed marvellously as the independent Chairman of the Council. We hope that the new members that will be coming in and those who are already with us will give you the necessary support to ensure that your reign as independent Chairman will be a successful one.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Avant de passer la parole à M. Hjort, Directeur général adjoint, je voudrais passer la parole à M. Sinaceur, membre éminent du Comité financier, qui ne nous quitte pas tout à fait. En effet, le Maroc quitte le Conseil mais il sera encore très présent, j'en suis très convaincu, dans les années qui viennent.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Le jeu de la démocratie et de la rotation fait que le Maroc sera remplacé au Conseil par la Tunisie et les membres de la sous-région à qui je souhaite la bienvenue au Conseil pour les prochaines sessions.

Par la même occasion, je voudrais dire que je regrette que ce ne soit pas mon ami et collègue M. Romdhane qui me succède au Conseil puisqu'il va lui-même nous quitter à la fin du mois. J'aimerais le saluer au nom des pays de la sous-région et lui souhaiter plein succès dans ses nouvelles fonctions. Nous collaborerons bien évidemment en parfaite harmonie avec son successeur.

Monsieur le Président, après trois années passées avec vous et avec les membres du Conseil, nous pensons pouvoir dire que nous partons avec une expérience nouvelle, celle du Comité financier. Nous regrettons certains moments, certaines formes de débat et nous essaierons d'oublier au plus vite certaines autres. Au demeurant, le bilan est positif. Nous avons parfaitement collaboré avec tous les pays membres du Conseil et avec vous, M. le Président. Je pense que, même en étant de l'autre côté, vous ne regarderez plus à gauche, à droite, mais un peu devant, si de temps en temps nous étions amenés à lever notre modeste pancarte.

Je tenais à vous remercier, M. le Président, ainsi que tous les membres du Conseil mais de toute manière nous ne serons pas très loin.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie le Royaume du Maroc en souhaitant qu'il n'oublie rien. Il n'y a pas tellement de choses à oublier. Dans la vie il y a toujours des zones d'ombre et des zones de lumière.

Je voudrais m'associer à l'hommage rendu au Président du Groupe africain. Il sait toute l'estime et toute l'amitié que nous lui portons. Nous lui souhaitons une très brillante carrière dans les années qui viennent.

#### TRIBUTE TO Mrs MERCEDES FERMIN GOMEZ. AMBASSADOR OF VENEZUELA TO FAO

#### HOMMAGE A Mme MERCEDES FERMIN GOMEZ, AMBASSADEUR DU VENEZUELA AUPRES DE LA FAO

#### HOMENAJE A LA Sra. MERCEDES FERMIN GOMEZ. EMBAJADORA DE VENEZUELA ANTE LA FAO

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Ya que estamos en el terreno de las despedidas, señor Presidente, sabemos los miembros del Grupo Latinoamericano que nuestra Presidente, la Embajadora Fermín, no estará con nosotros ya en el próximo período de sesiones del Consejo, y queremos hacer público nuestro reconocimiento y afecto a ella.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quisiera también agradecer a la distinguida Embajadora de Venezuela por su presencia en el Consejo y en la FAO. Ella ha trabajado mucho para la FAO y estoy seguro que va a seguir trabajando para la FAO.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Será muy emocionante para mí, sin duda, tomar la palabra, no para discutir, sino para decir unas palabras de despedida, para agradecer a todos ustedes la compañía que he recibido en los ocho años que llevo aquí, ante las actividades de la FAO. Cuando llegué me enfrentaba ante una incógnita, había sido parlamentaria en mi país durante 20 años, había sido también durante un largo período profesora en la Universidad, pero no había tenido oportunidad de participar en estos foros divergentes y convergentes de la vida internacional. Llegamos entonces a la FAO y hemos estado en ella como aprendiz de nuevas relaciones, y hemos

aprendido mucho, a ser pacientes, tolerantes y convivientes, porque creo que esto es un foro de convivencia, de una convivencia siempre llena de sorpresas, muchas veces gratas, otras difíciles, porque no olvidemos que aquí están en juego los intereses del mundo entero, que no deja de ser en ningún momento un mundo de contradicciones, de países poderosos que tienen por supuesto el derecho a mantener la aspiración de seguir defendiendo sus intereses, pero también los intereses de multitud de países pobrísimos, muchos de ellos recién nacidos a la vida libre y soberana de ser un país, porque hasta ayer nada más eran países dependientes, en donde sus destinos se jugaban en otros sitios que no en sus propias manos.

Estos países recién nacidos, que tienen tantas esperanzas, que tienen tantas ambiciones, que tienen por primera vez en su historia los derechos que les da su soberanía, y que aquí en este foro de Naciones Unidas, que es la FAO, tienen por primera vez un derecho de igualdad, ese derecho de igualdad que les da el voto que tienen en nuestras asambleas, en nuestros consejos, cuando llegamos al extremo de usarlo. Eso es un aprendizaje para quienes comienzan la vida de Estados soberanos independientes.

El mío, hace muchos años que obtuvo esta soberanía política, pero todavía estamos soñando con nuestra soberanía económica, porque en este terreno, lo sabemos bien, no existe la independencia, existe una interdependencia en la que juegan los grandes países y los pequeños, porque dependemos unos de otros y los debates en este foro se ponen un poco agrios, un poco fuertes, como el de esta tarde, pero felizmente la razón llega a su tiempo, y así hemos visto como Estados Unidos y Venezuela y Cuba y Côte d'Ivoire y cualquier otro pequeño país ha aceptado que su posición tiene limitaciones, esa limitación que da el juego democrático donde comienza el derecho del otro. Eso es, por suerte, efectivo y real aquí, en la FAO, y es respetado por los máximos contribuyentes y por los ínfimos contribuyentes, que muchas veces somos también deudores.

Yo voy a echar de menos esta oportunidad de participar en estos debates, de aprender muchas cosas. He vivido aprendiendo, aprendí mucho en diez años de exilio que me tocó vivir en los Estados Unidos. Allí aproveché para ir a las universidades a realizar mis postgrados en geografía que ha sido mi campo especial, y por eso acepté esta Embajada cuando me sugirieron que viniera a la FAO, porque aquí hay un campo de realización y aprendizaje, como lo vimos hoy, de geografía y de historia. Todavía no hemos aprendido bien esta nueva geografía que nos dejó la posguerra y que nos están enseñando las Naciones Unidas.

Por eso, yo espero y deseo que, en el futuro, nuestros debates - porque seguiré desde allá, con mi oído y mi vista puestos en este foro - sean cada vez más comprensivos, sean cada vez más fructíferos. Yo ahora estaré en mi país como un ciudadano cualquiera, pero contenta de haber realizado, como mi labor, el haber obtenido para que funcione en Venezuela una Representación Permanente de la FAO, Representación Permanente que ya es una Ley de la República, aprobada por nuestro Congreso y que esperamos que, con la anuencia del Director General, podamos iniciar su funcionamiento dentro de poco. Esa Representación Permanente de la FAO, esperamos que pueda darnos la oportunidad de ayudarnos en nuestra planificación económica, en nuestra rehabilitación agrícola, sobre todo si podemos lograr que parte de ese Programa N° 1, aprobado en la Conferencia de Río, nos dé algún beneficio y que estos proyectos que hemos aprobado aquí en este Consejo, las resoluciones de las conferencias, puedan ser realidad para mi país en un futuro no lejano.

Perdónenme el discurso deshilvanado, como están mis ideas y mis emociones en este momento, pero créanme que me llevaré muy gratos recuerdos de esta pasantía que he hecho en la FAO y que será beneficiosa para el futuro de mi país, porque allá aplicaré muchos de los conceptos y de las ideas que aquí se ventilan. Gracias por la compañía de todos ustedes. Me llevo muy gratos recuerdos y espero que en algún momento pueda volver por aquí, aunque sea de visita.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Con su permiso, Sr. Presidente, en nombre de mi delegación, y creo recoger también el sentir de mis colegas del GRULAC, como lo ha expresado anteriormente la distinguida representación de México, queremos improvisar algunas palabras sobre la despedida de la Embajadora de Venezuela.

Escuchamos con profunda atención y emoción lo expresado por Doña Mercedes Fermín, personalidad política en su país, así como en todo el círculo diplomático en Roma por varios años, que hoy ostenta la Presidencia de nuestra región.

Los que la conocemos y nos honramos con su amistad, sabemos que siempre que habla expresa su condición de profesora, de maestra, por sobre todas las cosas, pero a la hora del debate, es más una profesora de moral y cívica que de geografía, que es como acaba de decir ella, su asignatura. Su posición vertical de principio, su amor por su tierra, cuna de Bolívar, su historia, sus pronunciamientos en aras de los pueblos en vías de desarrollo, su defensa en la superación de la mujer rural, su constante batallar para que los pobres coman y la alimentación sea un derecho de todos.

Sirvan por tanto estas muy breves palabras para que se lleve Doña Mercedes el respeto y estimación de todos aquellos que la conocimos con un sencillo y reconocido homenaje a su trabajo y a su persona.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchísimas gracias al distinguido Embajador de Cuba. Quisiera añadir algo, porque conozco a la Sra. Embajadora de Venezuela desde hace bastante tiempo. Hemos trabajado juntos y quisiera decir que aprecié siempre sus intervenciones y aprendí mucho de ella. Ella va a regresar a su país, va a tener un papel importante para tratar de que la FAO pueda ayudar a su país, y esté más presente en Venezuela.

Quisiéramos decir a Doña Mercedes Fermín: ojalá que nos veamos aquí, en Roma de vez en cuando. Nunca nos olvidaremos de usted. Buena suerte, buena continuación y buen trabajo en su país.

Avant de passer la parole à M. Hjort, Directeur général adjoint, je voudrais dire quand même un petit mot de remerciement au Président du Comité de rédaction pour l'excellent travail fourni parce que nous avons abordé des sujets délicats et difficiles. Il a fait preuve d'une très grande patience. Je crois que c'était pour lui une des premières fois qu'il a eu l'occasion au sein de la FAO de présider un Comité de rédaction. Il l'a fait avec beaucoup

de sagesse et je suis convaincu que sa grande sagesse, son calme et sa modération, ont contribué à élaborer un rapport très équilibré. Merci à M. David Drake, Président du Comité de rédaction, et à tous les membres du Comité.

Merci également à tous les traducteurs qui ont eu une tâche difficile, parce que les débats ont été parfois quelque peu compliqués. Je me rends compte de la difficulté que le service d'interprétation doit rencontrer dans cette enceinte. Ils se sont tous acquittés magnifiquement de leur tâche. Je remercie les messagères de leur gentillesse. Je remercie le Secrétariat de l'effort considérable qu'il a fait, dans des conditions qui ne sont pas toujours faciles. Je crois que le Secrétaire général et son assistant ont été à cette session particulièrement brillants. Merci à M. Alessi et à M. Tedesco.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** First, on behalf of the Director-General, let me congratulate the Council on finishing a lengthy and heavy agenda in reasonably good time, and express appreciation to you, Mr Chairman, for guiding the work of the Council in an efficient manner, although there were times when it became somewhat tense.

The Chairman and the members of the Drafting Committee, as you have already mentioned, Mr Chairman, have earned gratitude for bringing to the Council, after very careful consideration, a Report that could be adopted in the main with only minor amendment.

Council has covered a wide range of subjects, and you have given the Secretariat valuable guidance. The positive comments that were made on documents prepared for discussion give the staff encouragement and incentive to try to do even better in the future.

I also appreciate the reaction of the Council to the opening statement of the Director-General, to the statement by the staff associations, and also to the Minister of Agriculture from Russia. You have come forward with an approach for resolving some outstanding questions, such as the participation of the European Community in the work of the Council. You have received information that virtually assures that this Organization will have more members in the not too distant future.

Considering the State of Food and Agriculture, I am reminded of the magnitude of the concerns. I guess one must conclude that the state of agriculture is not as good as one would like. I recall the concerns over the subdued state of the global economy, the slow growth in the agricultural economy, acute food shortages in parts of the world, depressed prices in international markets, export subsidies, the delay in completion of the Uruguay Round for ministerial trade negotiations. It is not the most optimistic picture. In part, because of this I suspect the Council received the Director-General's proposals for improving the International Emergency Food Reserve with considerable interest, and reaffirmed its support to the Global Information and Early Warning System.

We are particularly pleased with your guidance and support on the activities related to environment, sustainable development, and the support you gave to our on-going review of the Special Action Programmes and our attempts to streamline and rationalize the coordinating mechanisms that the Organization has. Your guidance on some very important fishery matters was appreciated, as were your views on other things such as follow-up to the WCARRD Review.



I note with interest that the Council has requested to be kept closely informed on all major decisions and events in other UN system fora and organizations which could have implications for FAO. This is a time when a lot of matters are being discussed that can and do have implications for the Organization.

I have also noted with interest the support that you have given to our activities related to relief, rehabilitation and development, as well as the preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition.

You have urged the Director-General to continue his efforts to achieve maximum implementation of the proposed Programme of Work. You have taken an important step toward the Consultative Group on the Tropical Forest Action Programme, although it appears that you may have this matter before you for decision for more times than for any other matter that has ever come before the Conference. It will come back to you next June.

The suggestions that the Council made with respect to support costs on the Trust Fund Programme were very welcome.

Several actions were taken with respect to constitutional and legal matters, but the amendment to the FAO Financial Regulations to incorporate the provisions of relevant Conference Resolutions regarding the Special Reserve Account could not be approved. The Director-General regrets that the Draft Resolution to do so could not be cleared for consideration by the Conference. While it was obvious to him that a vote would have been in favour of sending the Resolution forward, it was also obvious that it would have been divisive, and in view of the fact that there would be no change in the substance of the matter the Director-General proposed that it be withdrawn from consideration.

The divisiveness or the concerns expressed over the Special Reserve Account frankly came as a surprise to the Director-General, and probably especially in view of the fact that just yesterday we had lunch with the Under Secretary-General from the United Nations, who has asked for a report from us on the mechanisms available to the Director-General that enable him to manage the financial resources of the Organization. I point out that the UN and others in the UN system look to the FAO as a model of fiscal management responsibility. As you know, we have a Working Capital Fund which is complemented by a Special Reserve Account. That same mechanism provides some protection against unanticipated cost increases and also against currency fluctuation. If these two major lines of defense do not hold, then there is authority for external borrowing.

I am sure, as you know, the Secretary-General has these matters under consideration and he has appointed a high-level Commission headed by Mr Paul Volcker from the United States, formerly a Federal Reserve Chairman, and Mr Ogata, former Finance Ministry official from Japan and the husband of the High Commissioner for Refugees, to look into these matters. And so it is in that context that here we are, on the one hand, listening and then people ask us for a report on how it was you managed to get your governing body to approve these sorts of mechanisms that will permit you to manage better than we can the financial resources, and yet here, our own Council was expressing concern over these mechanisms.

I hope that it was lack of understanding of the role, purpose and the place of the mechanisms because then it is simply a matter of education and we offer

to meet with you as necessary to let you understand, as best we can, the basis of the rationale for it. I have seen some documents that indicate it is not well understood at all and that, I think, is unfortunate.

Finally, the Director-General is pleased to note the action taken with respect to the remuneration and conditions of service of staff. The message you have approved as they, in the final analysis, are our most precious resource.

In closing, I wish to extend best wishes to all of you and to your families, with a special good wish to those who are leaving the Council on this occasion. I have a particular and personal good wish for the Ambassador from Venezuela. I believe, if I read my "in" box well last night - at about midnight - I think I saw a memo which indicated all of the arrangements have now been set for the Representation Office to which you referred. So we look forward to having that established and we might call it a memorial to you. Thank you, very much.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, to Mr Hjort, the Deputy Director-General, for his conclusions about our work.

Je n'ai pas l'intention, Mesdames et Messieurs, de prononcer un discours, bien que, comme je l'ai déjà dit à certains de mes amis, je souffre un peu de "discours rentré".

Nous avons eu, pour la première fois, la participation d'une organisation d'intégration régionale et nous avons émis le vœu qu'elle soit amenée à jouer un rôle de participation extrêmement actif dans l'Organisation et ses prolongements. Les procédures administratives sont parfois longues et lourdes mais il appartient aux hommes de les bousculer un peu afin de les rendre opérationnelles.

J'ai toujours dit que nous devrions ouvrir des fenêtres sur le monde, fenêtres d'une grande générosité et d'une grande compréhension, et que demain devra se produire l'intégration d'un certain nombre de pays. Nous assistons aujourd'hui à ce qui a été qualifié de micronationalisme et de phénomène de désintégration mais il y a quand même progressivement une volonté d'union et l'Organisation des Nations Unies, parfois dans des conditions difficiles et par des débats houleux - et il est heureux qu'il en soit ainsi pour que tous les points de vue puissent s'exprimer - contribue incontestablement à construire ce monde d'échange, ce monde de compréhension, ce monde - laissez-moi employer ces termes - où l'amitié et l'amour entre tous les êtres humains doivent rester une dominante.

Nous souhaitons donc ardemment que l'Organisation d'intégration économique en question puisse progressivement jouer un rôle dans les programmes de terrain, qui représentent ce que j'ai appelé la vie et le sang de l'Organisation. Il ne faut pas que notre Organisation soit un centre scientifique - il en existe beaucoup de par le monde: des universités, des centres de réflexion, des centres d'échanges - mais une organisation opérationnelle pour tous.

L'une des grandes choses que j'ai apprises au sein de l'Organisation, c'est la compréhension qui existe entre des femmes et des hommes venus de pays, de continents, d'horizons différents, qui travaillent ensemble, dans le même esprit et dans le même but, à savoir apporter dans des conditions parfois difficiles des éléments de solution. Il n'y a pas de formule magique; c'est

une recherche permanente, avec des succès, des difficultés et des échecs. Tous ceux qui veulent que les choses changent contribuent à renforcer l'Organisation mais il faut que le changement et la bonne volonté de tous se traduisent par un effort d'union, de progrès, d'amélioration des formules pour les rendre plus souples et plus opérationnelles. Cela nécessite beaucoup de générosité et d'ouverture.

Je crois que la confrontation des points de vue est importante et, comme l'a très bien dit Madame l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela, au niveau international, nous faisons l'apprentissage de la démocratie - d'une démocratie internationale -qui est, pour moi, l'une des conditions de survie de la planète. S'il n'existe pas un certain nombre de normes, un certain nombre de règles que l'on doit progressivement élaborer et définir dans l'intérêt de la planète, on court à une série de catastrophes certaines. Que ce soit dans le domaine de l'agriculture, de l'environnement ou du développement au sens le plus large, il faut établir des normes et veiller à les faire respecter.

J'ai remarqué, au cours des débats, que dans tous les domaines, y compris celui des forêts, de l'agriculture ou de la pêche, on tend vers l'élaboration de ce que l'on a appelé les codes de conduite. Ces codes constituent quand même un droit international supranational qui, un jour, sera appelé à régir notre planète.

Je vous avais promis de ne pas faire de discours. J'ai lancé un appel à un nouveau membre du Conseil pour qu'il veuille à surmonter ses difficultés administratives internes. Comme on dit en anglais: "Where there is a will, there is a way".

Je pense qu'un excellent esprit a régné au Conseil, même si des reproches ont pu m'être adressés, qui constituent pour moi un épiphénomène sans trop d'importance. Je crois d'ailleurs que l'on a davantage d'estime pour quelqu'un à qui l'on a quelque chose à reprocher que pour des gens à qui l'on ne reproche rien.

Je termine, sur ces quelques modestes réflexions, en souhaitant à ceux qui retournent dans leur pays, bon retour, à ceux qui restent à Rome, bon séjour. Il nous reste beaucoup de choses à faire, 1993 sera une année complexe au cours de laquelle l'Organisation devra continuer sur sa lancée. Il y a très longtemps que je dis que je suis toujours étonné qu'une organisation ayant un budget aussi petit puisse faire tant, un budget qui, sur deux ans, ne représente même pas le budget d'un tout petit pays comme le mien dans le secteur de la coopération, sur un an. Je crois qu'on a suffisamment souligné que ce budget devait servir à donner des impulsions, à mobiliser des ressources, à réaliser ensemble de grands programmes. Considérons-le comme un moteur et non pas un frein. Or, le moteur de l'Organisation est bien certainement aussi le Secrétariat - et l'on peut compter sur son dévouement le plus total - mais le vrai moteur de l'Organisation, ce sont ses instances responsables. Vous êtes le moteur de l'Organisation. De grâce, laissez-le tourner. Prenons une vitesse de croisière qui permette de répondre aux interpellations de notre monde et d'apporter demain les éléments de solution aux angoissants problèmes qui nous tenaillent.

Applause

Applaudissements Aplausos

**Daniel Yoman KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Je serai très bref. La réussite des travaux de notre cent deuxième session tient, à nos yeux, au sens aigu des responsabilités de tous les membres du Conseil, y compris son Président que ma délégation voudrait saluer ici en retenant de lui ce qu'il a dit lui-même tout à l'heure, à savoir les zones de lumière dans la vie d'un homme. Je veux parler de son endurance; je veux parler de son esprit d'indépendance; je veux parler de son opiniâtreté et, pour ce qui concerne ma délégation, en tout cas, de sa compréhension du monde en développement, qu'il a pratiqué et qu'il connaît si bien.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I have just received this word; I will not suggest you go back and amend the report you have adopted but it says: "The European Community on Friday has accepted an agreement with the United States to end their long-running dispute over farm subsidies and avert a damaging trade war. 'There was unanimous backing', said an EC official after a late afternoon meeting of the Trading Bloc executive commission. In a joint statement the two sides said, 'In agriculture we have resolved our differences on the main elements. We have full expectation that the breakthrough we have achieved will unblock the negotiations and provide the new impetus necessary to complete the Uruguay Round. We encourage our trading partners to return to the negotiating table in Geneva prepared to show the necessary flexibility to bring these negotiations to a close'. Maybe that is a good note to close on.

Applause

Applaudissements Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much for that important announcement.

This Session of the Council is hereby closed.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas.