

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

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

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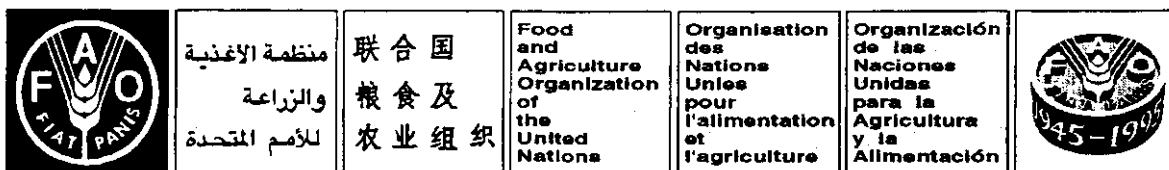
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5 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108° período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

5 June 1995

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.25 hours
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 25
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.25
horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días distinguidos delegados, observadores, señoras y señores, me permito declarar abierto este 108° período de Sesiones del Consejo.

Cordialmente doy la bienvenida a los nuevos Miembros del Consejo: Camerún, Estonia, Turquía y Zimbabwe. Quisiera también dar la bienvenida a todos los ministros y altos funcionarios que nos acompañan y que nos honran con su presencia. Agradezco igualmente la presencia del Dr Jacques Diouf, Director General de nuestra Organización, cuya participación en estas labores será de gran ayuda a este Consejo.

Antes de iniciar quisiera nuevamente advertirles sobre la participación de la Comunidad Europea en esta reunión, de acuerdo con los párrafos 8 y 9 del Artículo II de la Constitución de la FAO, les informo, además, de que la Declaración hecha por la Comunidad Europea y sus Estados Miembros, se encuentra en el documento CL 108/INF/11 que ha sido distribuido.

También quisiera llamar la atención del Consejo a la nota sobre los métodos de trabajo del Consejo que se encuentra en el documento CL 108/INF/4.

Espero contar con la cooperación de todos ustedes para lograr nuestros propósitos de llegar a conclusiones claras, concretas y ejecutivas en nuestras labores, por lo que les pido no solamente que sean ustedes muy puntuales en el inicio de nuestras sesiones, sino también que sean breves en su intervenciones, que vayan al punto y que busquen evitar repeticiones de temas que ya han sido tratados en otros foros y que este Consejo puede simplemente endosar. Les pido que aclaren también su posición respecto de aquellos asuntos sobre los que el Consejo requiere decisión y normatividad de parte del Consejo.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del Programa y el calendario

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos frente a nosotros el programa provisional en el documento CL 108/1. Hay un pequeño error en la versión francesa. Solamente el título del punto 12. En la última parte debe leerse "Commission du développement durable (CDD)" En lugar de "Sous-commission consultative des excédents". Si no hay opinión contraria de los Miembros del Consejo, ¿podría entender que lo adoptamos tal como esta propuesto? Queda adoptado.

Respecto del calendario Provisional que se encuentra en el documento CL 108/INF/1-Rev.1 después de consultar con la totalidad, o la mayoría de ustedes, y tras consulta con el Señor Director General, estamos proponiendo a ustedes cambios importantes en el calendario de nuestros trabajos, con el propósito de seguir una secuencia más lógica en el tratamiento sobre todo, de los temas de carácter programático y presupuestario. Ustedes notarán que los temas relativos a los informes de los varios comités del Consejo, sobre Seguridad Alimentaria, Problemas de Productos Básicos, Agricultura, Pesca y Montes han sido traídos antes de la discusión del Tema 16. Asimismo notarán que los Temas 17 y 18, se considerarán antes del Tema 16 relativo al resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Les hago notar que, en relación al tratamiento de esos temas, me refiero a los informes de los varios comités, para facilitar la discusión, los párrafos relativos a aspectos de carácter presupuestal, les repito los párrafos relativos de los informes de los comités que tratan cuestiones presupuestales, no se discutirán en esos temas respecto a los informes de los comités, sino que se incluirán en la discusión del Tema 16. Para que ustedes logren identificar esos párrafos se ha preparado y distribuido un documento CL 108/LIM/3 que espero todos ustedes tengan a la mano, y que hace referencia al número de los párrafos que no se discutirán en los temas relativos a los informes de los comités y que se discutirán en el Tema 16.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, después de estas aclaraciones, y espero también que tras las consultas informales que tuvimos, previas a nuestra reunión del Consejo, ustedes nos permitan coincidir con la reordenación de los temas de nuestro calendario.

A estas alturas les pregunto si existe algún comentario al respecto. Como no hay comentarios, se aprueba el calendario de nuestros trabajos conforme al documento CL 108/INF/1-Rev.1.

De acuerdo con el horario actual de la casa, les propongo, igualmente, que sigamos la tradición y que trabajemos de 9.30 de la mañana a 12.30; luego de 14.30 a 17.30 de la tarde.

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

En consultas entre los delegados, y los diversos grupos, se me ha suministrado una lista de los tres Vicepresidentes de nuestro Consejo, lista que me voy a permitir leerles y proponerles. Primer Vicepresidente, de los Estados Unidos de América, la señora Melinda L. Kimble; de Túnez, Su Excelencia el Señor Salah Hamdi; de Cuba Su Excelencia, el Señor Nuiry Sánchez.

Si ustedes están de acuerdo, espero que podamos elegirlos como Vicepresidentes con un aplauso.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Este Consejo se honra, pues, de elegir a los tres Vicepresidentes mencionados para que funjan como tales durante nuestra sesión.

Relativo al Comité de Redacción, igualmente después de consultas, se me ha pasado una lista de Países Miembros que lo constituirán y que me voy a permitir leer: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bélgica, Chile, China, Congo, Egipto, Irán, Japón, Noruega, Eslovaquia, Uganda y Estados Unidos. No se me ha informado aún de quién será **EL PRESIDENTE** de dicho Comité, información que con mucho gusto tras consultas les comunicaré.

¿Hay alguna observación respecto de la lista que les he presentado? Si no hay ninguna observación, el Comité de Redacción queda integrado como les he informado y **EL PRESIDENTE** se identificará con ulterioridad.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Monsieur le Président, avant d'aborder le point suivant de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais faire quelques observations au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 15 Etats Membres pour ce qui concerne le point 2 de l'ordre du jour et les méthodes de travail du Comité de rédaction.

Nous venons d'élire en effet les trois vice-présidents du Conseil et de mettre en place le Comité de rédaction. Comme vous le savez, l'Union européenne et ses Etats Membres auraient été enclins à la désignation d'un rapporteur, procédure moins coûteuse et appliquée avec succès dans les organes directeurs d'autres organisations.

Nos méthodes de travail doivent évoluer dans le sens d'une plus grande efficacité et de la recherche d'économies pour l'Organisation. Nos rapports doivent être plus concis, comme vous l'avez dit, moins nombreux et centrés sur les décisions à prendre ou les décisions prises après nos discussions. En particulier, il

faut limiter les autofélicitations du Conseil et ne plus reprendre des éléments d'introduction de point de l'ordre du jour dans la rédaction des rapports, mais cela vous l'avez dit vous-même, Monsieur le Président.

Je voudrais donc demander au Président du Comité de rédaction de veiller particulièrement à ces orientations en usant si nécessaire de son autorité pour aboutir, je le répète, à un document concis, précis et rigoureux.

Ce point conduit à soulever la question plus globale de la poursuite de la réforme de l'exercice du pouvoir à la FAO dans l'esprit de la Résolution N° 48/162 de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

Notre Organisation doit améliorer et harmoniser ses méthodes de travail et sa prise de décision, comme cela est appliqué avec succès dans d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies.

Je voudrais aussi souligner ce point en indiquant que l'Union européenne souhaite s'engager dans la préparation, en consultation avec un groupe de membres aussi large que possible, d'une résolution sur la réforme des méthodes de direction, governance comme on dit en anglais - je ne trouve pas le mot en français - qui serait examinée à la prochaine session de la Conférence.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, de m'avoir donné la parole.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por sus observaciones y recomendaciones. Como usted sabe, aunque hay reglas que permiten que el Consejo no cuente con un Comité de Redacción, la verdad es que la tradición ha sido la de tener un Comité de Redacción que se ha venido reuniendo en cada ocasión del Consejo. Desde luego está en manos de este Consejo determinar la forma de proceder al respecto, y no creo que éste sea el momento para discutir sobre ello, sin embargo, hemos ya integrado un Comité de Redacción, pero claro, está en sus manos llegar a un acuerdo, llegar a un consenso, respecto a la forma en que se debe preparar el informe de este Consejo.

En lo que respecta al contenido del informe del Consejo, igualmente está en sus manos indicar qué tan extenso o qué tan concreto debe ser. Yo tengo indicaciones informales de que es la intención de los miembros de este Consejo que su informe en esta ocasión sea mucho más conciso, que vaya mucho más al punto, y que destaque principalmente las cuestiones de carácter resolutivo y los acuerdos que se tomen y las recomendaciones concretas, sin explayarse en reproducir el debate, salvo quizás en aquellas cuestiones donde haya puntos de vista auténticamente diversos.

Espero, repito, yo estoy en sus manos respecto del tipo de informe que ustedes deseen producir.

En lo que se refiere al último punto que ha mencionado usted, le pregunto si está usted proponiendo formalmente que se incluya este asunto para la discusión en el próximo Consejo de la FAO y para que en octubre se lleve a la Conferencia. ¿Era ésta su intención, distinguido Delegado de Francia?

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Nous ne proposons pas une réforme immédiatement, c'est évident, mais un peu pour l'avenir de manière à être plus efficace. J'ai moi-même présidé un comité qui était difficile, et avec un rapporteur les choses se sont très bien passées. Donc je pense que l'on peut faire des économies à l'Organisation, et c'est dans ce souci, et afin de rendre les choses plus efficaces, que je suis tout à fait d'accord avec vos observations sur la nature d'un rapport qui doit être concis et ne pas répéter ce qui a été dit dans les comités techniques.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters

20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

20.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions

20.1 Invitation d'Etats non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO

20.1 Invitaciones a estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos delegados, espero que con estos comentarios queden ustedes satisfechos y que podamos darle curso al Tema 20.1, finalizarlo, y que se refería a la participación de Estados Miembros de la Organización en las sesiones de este Consejo en futuras reuniones de la FAO. Pero, antes de terminar con este punto les pregunto si hay alguna otra observación, respecto a aquéllas que formuló el distinguido Representante de Francia.

Bien, en este caso, les pregunto entonces si el Consejo está de acuerdo con las propuestas del Documento CL 108/INF/8 respecto de la participación de Rusia y Ucrania en nuestras sesiones y en otras reuniones de la FAO.

En ese caso, así se acuerda.

Les indico también que en el párrafo 7 se dan los nombres de los países que han asistido a las reuniones de la FAO desde la última reunión del Consejo. Me refiero al mismo documento CL 108/INF/8, y si ningún miembro del Consejo tiene comentario al respecto, concluimos este Tema y pasamos al Tema 20.3.

20.3. Applications for Membership in the Organization

20.3 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation

20.3 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización

EL PRESIDENTE: Documento CL 108/22 sobre las solicitudes de ingreso a la Organización fueron recibidas por el Director General y nos indican que dos países más, la República de Moldova y la República de Turkmenistán, nos indican que han presentado solicitudes de ingreso a la FAO, las cuales serán consideradas por el 28° período de sesiones de la Conferencia en octubre próximo. Se le pide al Consejo, mientras tanto, que autorice al Director General invitar a la República de Moldova y a la República de Turkmenistán en calidad de observadores a las Sesiones del Consejo y de sus Comités, así como también a las reuniones regionales que les puedan interesar.

Yo creo que no tendremos ningún inconveniente en aprobar y autorizar estas dos invitaciones, de parte del Director General, a la República de Moldova y a la República de Turkmenistán, y si no hay ninguna observación al respecto concluimos el Tema 20.3 aprobándolo.

Distinguidos delegados y observadores tengo ahora el alto honor de darle la palabra al señor Jacques Diouf, Director General de la Organización. Me complace mucho darle la palabra al Señor Director General y escucharlo atentamente.

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

3. Statement by the Director-General

3. Déclaration du Directeur général

3. Declaración del Director General

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Mr Minister, Distinguished Representatives, Members of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all I want to welcome you all, particularly those who have had a long journey here from your capital cities. Every meeting of the FAO Council is a new milestone in the progress of the Organization and your agenda, like that of past sessions, is very full. Perhaps you will understand however that I consider this Session to be especially important; it was in fact just one year to the day, or nearly so, that a special Session of the Council unanimously approved the sweeping reforms and concrete measures I had proposed to breathe new life in our Organization. And as I promised, you will now have the opportunity to review the second progress report on the implementation of these decisions.

This June Session also represents an essential step in the process of consultations prior to the Conference's review of the proposals in the next Programme of Work and Budget, the formulation of which is particularly delicate for a series of reasons. I hope that the Council will facilitate this process by voicing a carefully pondered, clear and unanimous opinion on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget before it. You will also be informed of preparations for the World Food Summit, a topic already taken up at the Council Session last November at the time when this major event was virtually still in the embryonic stages. It has matured considerably since and you now have before you more concrete evidence to guide your decisions at this Session. Before dealing with these three items I shall, as is the custom, briefly touch on just the highlights of the global state of food and agriculture, if I may.

World cereal production in 1995 is currently forecast at one billion 933 million tonnes, a decline of about 20 million tonnes or 1 percent compared with last year. This level of production would not be sufficient to meet expected consumption needs in 1995-96 and carry-over stocks of cereals will have to be drawn down to 273 million tonnes at the end of the crop years closing in 1996, 30 million tonnes or 10 percent below their opening levels. The supply situation is particularly tight for wheat with extremely low stocks forecasts to be held by the major exporters. As a result aggregate world cereal stocks at the end of 1995-96 seasons could approach 15 percent of trend utilization in 1996-97, substantially below the range of 17 to 18 percent the FAO Secretariat considers the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security.

Exports and future prices for wheat and maize, the leading coarse grain, have already started to rise. Should crop conditions deteriorate in major regions or any significant additional demand materialize this year beyond that currently anticipated, further price increases would be triggered. This would raise the import bills of cereal-importing countries with serious implications for Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. Many countries, especially in Africa, continue to face dire food emergencies and, at best, highly unstable food supply situation.

The media give a lot of coverage to Rwanda and Burundi but many other countries or provinces within countries are experiencing severe shortfalls in connection with internal conflicts or localized drought. At the same time, the prospects for future food aid are hardly reassuring. The backdrop is not altogether bleak. Africa's global cereal output is increasing. Agricultural, commodity export prices for developing countries rose last year and are expected to remain steady this year. A tax of animal pests and diseases also require our continuous vigilance. Due to unusually heavy rainfall in the traditional spring breeding zones of the desert locusts and the current presence of hopper bands and swarms in neighbouring areas, a potentially dangerous situation could easily develop within the next few months. Rinderpest and associated disease emergencies in East Africa have required the assistance and intervention of FAO. Both situations offer further evidence (if need be) of the validity of the EMPRES Programme approved by the Council last year. This takes me to the next topic, which is progress on the implementation of decisions taken by the Council at the 106th Session last June. The restructuring exercise is now in its final stages. Considerable work was required to closely review

the allocation of posts within the Secretariat, redefine the mandate of the different organizational units and rewrite the accompanying job description. A nearly full team of senior staff is now on board and on the job. The actual regrouping into one department or office of units that are still not together will take place during the summer. The new administrative units will take longer to establish because this component of the restructuring is governed by a complex situation of rules and procedures and computer network systems, themselves currently the subject of an in-depth review intended to simplify and/or improve them.

Decentralization to the reinforced Regional Offices and the new Sub-Regional Offices is being carried out in stages. In addition to redefining functions and adjusting administrative procedures, a job virtually identical to that of Headquarters' restructuring, there is the human component, the logistics component, and the what I would call "diplomacy" component.

Clearly, decentralization implies the transfer of staff members and their families and must take place in accordance with the provisions of the Staff Rules. This cannot be done overnight. Additionally, there is the problem of children's schooling, notices for the non-renewal of rental leases, and so forth. A framework for dialogue with the Staff Associations has been set up to ensure that everything is done according to the rules and in consideration of individual preferences and situations, where possible. For the practical reasons I have just mentioned, summer is the best time for these transfers. We therefore expect major progress in the redeployment operation by September.

As for the logistics component, the first thing is to make sure that the designated staff premises are satisfactory in terms of quantity and quality. Moreover, as indicated in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, the decentralization process will be expanded to include the transfer of additional staff from the Investment Centre and Field Operations Divisions. We therefore need to negotiate with the host countries and institutions as to the terms under which these staff are received, particularly the availability of appropriate facilities and the satisfactory conditions at the level of both the Regional Offices to be strengthened and the new Sub-Regional Offices and institutions concerned. And lastly, as to the diplomacy component, lengthy negotiations were needed to arrive at a consensus on the choice of host country for the Sub-Regional Office. As an inter-governmental organization, FAO must operate within a clearly defined legal framework. Headquarters agreements for countries and exchanges of letters for the institutions need to be negotiated. The national administrations concerned have their own decision-making procedures. It all takes time, too much time perhaps, but there is no alternative.

Despite these constraints two Sub-Regional Offices have been established and three Sub-Regional Representatives are already at work. Negotiations are being pursued with the host countries of these offices. I am sorry, however, to have to point out that despite our effort to arrive at a solution agreeable to all countries involved, a consensus has not yet emerged on the choice of the Headquarters of one of the five Sub-Regional Offices, and I shall therefore have to take the appropriate steps to ensure that this situation does not persist.

(continue en Français)

Nous sommes aussi en train de travailler activement au développement du réseau télématique pour lier tous les bureaux décentralisés entre eux et avec le Siège et faciliter ainsi le flux toujours croissant d'informations. Pour des motifs de coûts trop élevés, les objectifs du premier projet soumis ont dû être revus, un nouveau projet a été préparé en tenant compte des changements dans le système de communication. Le dossier d'appel d'offres devrait être finalisé dans les prochaines semaines.

Les nouveaux accords de coopération proposés aux Etats Membres ont enregistré un grand succès. Il s'agit de l'utilisation d'experts dans le cadre de la coopération technique entre pays en développement (CTPD) ainsi qu'entre pays en transition d'Europe centrale et orientale, et aussi de fonctionnaires des administrations nationales ou du système des Nations Unies présentement à la retraite. Le programme de coopération avec les institutions académiques et de recherche a été revu pour répondre aux observations des Etats Membres.

A l'heure actuelle, 56 Etats Membres ont signé l'accord de CTPD, et nous avons reçu plus de 1 600 offres de services qui doivent être, bien entendu, soigneusement évaluées par les services techniques et enregistrées dans la base de données pour pouvoir effectuer les corrélations appropriées avec les demandes d'expertise.

Finalement, quelques mots à propos des deux Programmes spéciaux: le Programme spécial de production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, et le Système de prévention et de réponse rapide (EMPRES) contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes.

Vous avez les données principales sur les activités passées et en cours dans le document soumis au Conseil. Il me suffit de rappeler que le Programme spécial sur la sécurité alimentaire est maintenant actif dans un groupe de 15 pays. Son développement futur dépend d'une façon critique du soutien des membres qui, jusqu'à présent, ont coopéré activement dans le financement des activités de terrain de la FAO, de nos partenaires privilégiés comme les institutions financières et le PNUD, et aussi de la mobilisation de nouveaux donateurs. Je voudrais rappeler, comme j'ai eu à le souligner quand j'ai proposé ce programme, que la FAO ne peut à elle seule le mettre en oeuvre avec ses ressources propres trop limitées. Elle a initié les actions, elles existent effectivement sur le terrain. La mobilisation de nos partenaires traditionnels et de nouveaux donateurs est nécessaire maintenant pour que l'élan de ce programme fondamental de l'Organisation, qui a suscité beaucoup d'enthousiasme au niveau des Etats Membres, ne soit pas brisé. En outre et, cela gagne à être souligné sans cesse, ce sont les gouvernements bénéficiaires et les communautés paysannes intéressées qui auront la responsabilité principale des activités concrètes dans les pays.

Afin de mobiliser le maximum de ressources, aucun effort n'a été épargné pour exposer les grandes lignes de ce Programme à tous les partenaires potentiels: organisations internationales, institutions financières et donateurs bilatéraux. Les accords existants ont été renforcés avec la Banque mondiale et un groupe de travail PNUD/FAO est en fonction afin d'identifier les projets conjoints qui pourront être réalisés dans le cadre du Programme. D'autres donateurs, organismes internationaux et banques de développement ont accordé leur soutien ou exprimé leur intérêt. Une consultation avec les donateurs est prévue en marge des travaux du Conseil. J'espère sincèrement qu'elle débouchera sur des marques tangibles de soutien. J'invite les membres des délégations provenant des pays qui sont en mesure de soutenir financièrement ce Programme à exercer toute l'influence possible auprès de leurs administrations nationales compétentes pour débloquer ce qui est peut-être tout simplement une situation de "wait-and-see", pour user l'expression anglaise si éloquente.

En ce qui concerne le Système de prévention et de réponse rapide (EMPRES) contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes, comme vous vous le rappellerez sans doute, l'accent a été mis initialement sur les acridiens et sur la peste bovine, compte tenu de l'importance de ces deux fléaux. Bien que les besoins en ressources extra-budgétaires ne soient pas aussi grands que pour l'autre Programme spécial, il nous faut néanmoins assurer un flot régulier de ressources de ce type pour pouvoir aller de l'avant, et surtout étendre les champs d'action initiaux à d'autres zones géographiques ou maladies, comme le souhaitent les Etats Membres.

Le troisième volet de mon allocution est relatif au Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1996-97. Au premier chef, permettez-moi de réitérer mon appréciation pour les débats fort pertinents en la matière tenus lors des sessions du Comité du Programme et des finances, aussi bien en janvier lorsqu'ils ont examiné le schéma du Programme de travail, et en avril quand ils ont discuté du Sommaire. Leurs rapports sont là pour vous aider dans vos délibérations.

Comme beaucoup de membres de délégations ici présents le savent, j'ai cru bon d'organiser des réunions d'information avec les divers groupes régionaux, au cours desquelles j'ai mentionné, entre autres sujets, la situation financière de l'Organisation et exprimé ma sérieuse préoccupation à ce propos. Cette situation a des liens étroits avec certains des paramètres du prochain Programme de travail et budget.

Les circonstances qui ont conduit à la situation financière fort difficile que traverse la FAO à présent sont sans nul doute bien connues de tous.

L'attente combien optimiste de paiements substantiels d'arriérés de contributions durant le présent biennium, sur la base de laquelle a été élaborée la formule de contributions réduites qui est inscrite dans la résolution y afférente de la Conférence, ne s'est donc pas réalisée. Le déficit existant au début de l'exercice en cours auquel il convient d'ajouter les arriérés inscrits pour le financement du budget 1994-95 risque d'atteindre des niveaux inacceptables à la fin 95 au regard des règles de saine gestion financière.

Aussi, au lieu de recourir à des emprunts qui aggraverait, par des dettes impliquant le paiement d'arriérés, une situation financière déjà difficile, j'ai décidé d'introduire des mesures d'économies sévères pour limiter la croissance possible de ce déficit, et donc pouvoir démarrer l'exercice 1996-97 sur des bases les plus saines possibles. En outre, j'ai proposé aux Etats Membres de ne plus avoir recours à la formule aléatoire de prise en compte de paiements d'arriérés pour fixer l'assiette des contributions pour le prochain exercice biennal. Je suis satisfait de l'appui exprimé à ce principe par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier.

Mon souci est aussi de limiter dans toute la mesure possible l'accroissement des contributions eu égard aux difficultés des Etats Membres à faire face à leurs obligations. Cela m'a conduit à proposer un budget à croissance zéro. Vous constaterez que ce choix délibéré n'a pas été facile; surtout au vu des dépenses, par ailleurs hautement souhaitables, qu'il ne m'a pas été possible d'inclure dans l'enveloppe budgétaire du Sommaire. Je me vois donc forcé de les inscrire dans un budget complémentaire qui ne serait exécuté que si les ressources nécessaires devenaient disponibles.

Ces deux lignes directrices, combinées à la nécessité de couvrir les augmentations de coûts, conduisent à un accroissement des contributions de 11,7 pour cent par rapport à leur niveau de 1994-95. Vous avez observé que, tenant compte des préoccupations exprimées par les Etats Membres, des efforts sérieux ont été faits pour réduire le niveau de 16 pour cent indiqué dans le schéma du Programme de travail et budget.

Pour certains, l'accroissement des contributions est encore trop élevé. Pour ma part, je n'ai fait que proposer le retour à la pratique normale pour fixer les contributions, et l'application du principe de la croissance réelle zéro. Il convient en outre de rappeler que les Etats Membres, par le mécanisme de l'inclusion d'arriérés dans le financement du budget, ont minoré leurs contributions aux exercices précédents. Il en résulte que la FAO est l'Institution qui a eu le taux de croissance des contributions le plus faible par rapport à 1990-91.

Je crois qu'il est aussi important de rappeler que c'est grâce à certaines économies réalisées dans le cadre des propositions de réaménagement du budget faites au Conseil à sa cent sixième session qu'il a été possible de redéployer les ressources internes nécessaires pour permettre d'initier de nouveaux programmes prioritaires (sécurité alimentaire et EMPRES) et de mettre en place les équipements nécessaires pour améliorer la communication entre le Siège et les structures décentralisées.

Qu'en est-il des priorités? Il vous sera expliqué que, pour des raisons pratiques, ce Sommaire ne contient pas la présentation traditionnelle des provisions budgétaires et des changements introduits par rapport au présent Programme de travail et budget. Néanmoins, le Sommaire indique déjà de façon générale un certain nombre de domaines prioritaires qui tiennent compte, bien entendu, des décisions déjà prises par le Conseil au titre des programmes spéciaux approuvés l'an dernier, et des attentes telles qu'elles ont été exprimées par les Etats Membres à maintes reprises. Le Sommaire inclut aussi - peut-être de façon téméraire - une liste de domaines qui pourraient être considérés comme moins prioritaires.

Le Comité du Programme, et dans une moindre mesure le Comité financier, et tous les comités techniques du Conseil, ont discuté abondamment de cette question des priorités, pas toujours dans une direction nette et précise. C'est un sujet très difficile car les 170 Etats Membres qui couvrent un large spectre de tailles de population, de dimensions géographiques, de dotations en ressources naturelles, de niveaux de développement économique, social et technique, de problèmes spécifiques au titre de l'agriculture, des forêts, des pêches et de l'alimentation, et tout simplement d'intérêts nationaux ont naturellement des divergences. Il est donc naturel qu'ils ne puissent aisément trouver un dénominateur commun des actions prioritaires qu'ils souhaitent confier à la FAO.

Mes collègues et moi-même n'avons pas voulu rester passifs dans cet exercice si délicat. Nous devons refléter toutes les recommandations des comités techniques, ainsi que celles du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, et enfin et surtout, vos avis et conclusions à cette session, pour déboucher sur un ensemble de propositions cohérentes dans le Programme de travail et budget qui sera soumis à la Conférence. Malgré les difficultés, je suis convaincu que vos débats sur le Sommaire donneront l'occasion d'une recherche d'un consensus que je souhaite ardemment.

(continúa en Español)

Me ocuparé ahora de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, acontecimiento importante habida cuenta de que por primera vez en sus cincuenta años de existencia la FAO se empeñará en celebrar una reunión del más alto nivel político, plenamente centrada en su mandato de eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Después de los debates sobre esta cuestión celebrados en las Conferencias regionales y el Consejo, y tras los contactos preliminares que he mantenido con los Estados Miembros, tengo el propósito de someter oficialmente a la consideración de la Conferencia mi propuesta de convocar una Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación en 1996. Me anima la íntima convicción de que la comunidad internacional, y en primer lugar sus dirigentes del más alto nivel, deben cerrar filas en torno al compromiso solemne de adoptar medidas concretas para erradicar la inseguridad alimentaria.

Soy consciente de que, al comienzo, un proyecto de esta naturaleza ha suscitado las reacciones más diversas, desde el entusiasmo a la duda. Algunos han preguntado por qué convocar una cumbre con la participación de Jefes de Estado o de Gobierno y no una reunión ministerial.

Indiqué ya en su día que los Ministros de Agricultura se reúnen cada dos años con ocasión de la Conferencia de la FAO; que la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación contó con la participación de los Ministros; que el Consejo de la FAO es un órgano de alto nivel y que estas reuniones tienen un valor inapreciable. Sin embargo, y pese a la buena voluntad, a los buenos propósitos reiteradamente expresados, y a los esfuerzos desplegados, al menos 800 millones de seres humanos continúan sufriendo de malnutrición en la era de los ordenadores y de las misiones espaciales. Los recursos marinos están sometidos a una explotación excesiva, y millones de hectáreas de bosques desaparecen cada año. La disponibilidad de tierras cultivables y de agua disminuye por el efecto combinado de las fuerzas de la naturaleza y del hombre, poco preocupado -lo primero es la supervivencia- por el concepto de sostenibilidad.

Ante la perspectiva de que nuestro planeta deberá alimentar a 3.000 millones de habitantes adicionales en el año 2030, ¿habría sido apropiado convocar una nueva Conferencia Ministerial y esperar que ésta permita impulsar la concienciación colectiva que tan difícil parece de alcanzar?

Personalmente no soy de esa opinión. Es, por tanto, la experiencia del pasado, unida a la necesidad de una reacción enérgica ante la pasividad frente a un hecho inaceptable, lo que ha motivado mi propuesta. El apoyo y asesoramiento de los representantes permanentes ante la FAO ha sido para mí fuente de satisfacción.

Tras celebrar las consultas apropiadas propondré a la Conferencia que la cumbre se celebre en noviembre de 1996. La Reunión Ministerial tendrá lugar del 13 al 15 de noviembre, y los dos últimos días, 16 y 17 de noviembre se dedicarán a los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno. La Cumbre estará precedida por una reunión preparatoria de funcionarios de alto nivel durante los días 11 y 12 de noviembre.

Quisiera, llegado a este punto, expresar mi más sincero agradecimiento al Gobierno italiano que, tras el aplazamiento de la Cumbre de marzo a noviembre de 1996 en razón de sus compromisos políticos, ha confirmado su disponibilidad a hospedarla y a colaborar en su organización. Este apoyo político, material y diplomático, será esencial para el éxito de la Cumbre. Además el aplazamiento permitirá, sin duda alguna, disponer de más tiempo para preparar mejor las reuniones y beneficiarse de la aportación de las Conferencias Regionales de la FAO.

Esta Cumbre deberá ser, en primer lugar, diferente de las otras manifestaciones análogas a fin de evitar cierto cansancio, que puede traducirse en escepticismo con respecto a la utilidad y eficacia de tales reuniones internacionales.

Por esta razón la Cumbre no se convertirá en una conferencia de promesas. No preconizará la creación de nuevos mecanismos de financiación ni de instituciones a fin de evitar los debates sin futuro registrados en otras circunstancias. La Cumbre tratará cuestiones fundamentales y será refrendada con la aprobación de un documento de política general de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno y de un plan de acción con medidas prácticas y concretas para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria en los planos nacional, regional y mundial.

Además, a diferencia de otras cumbres, La Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación no recurrirá al sistema prolijo y costoso de los comités preparatorios, sino que utilizará las reuniones normales de la Organización, en particular, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Consejo y la Conferencia. Atendiendo a mi petición,

varios de los Estados Miembros han designado ya un Secretario Nacional encargado de garantizar el enlace con la Secretaría General de la Cumbre, quien dirige una pequeña dependencia de coordinación en la sede de la Organización; se asegurará la contribución de las ONG y del sector privado en todas las etapas del proceso, desde la preparación hasta la aplicación de las conclusiones de la Cumbre. Además, hemos comenzado a recabar la colaboración de los otros organismos especializados del sistema de las Naciones Unidas como la OMS, el PNUD, el UNICEF, el PNUMA, el FNUAP y el PMA, las instituciones financieras de Bretton Woods y los bancos regionales, para la preparación de los documentos que servirán de base a la Cumbre.

Asimismo, se hará todo lo posible por reducir al mínimo los costos de la Cumbre, por ejemplo utilizando plenamente los recursos intelectuales y técnicos de que dispone la Organización. A este objetivo de economizar lo máximo posible responden la elección de la Sede en Roma, en lugar de otra ciudad, como sede de la Cumbre y la utilización de las reuniones ya programadas de los órganos de la FAO.

A este respecto, la Conferencia Ministerial de Quebec, que tendrá lugar del 14 al 16 de octubre de 1995 con ocasión de la conmemoración del 50° Aniversario de la FAO, será un hito importante en el proceso de preparación de la Cumbre. En efecto, esta Conferencia, en la que participarán tanto los Ministros de Agricultura como los que se ocupan del desarrollo y de la cooperación, abordará una cuestión de importancia crucial: "inversiones para conseguir alimentos para todos".

El simposio organizado por el Canadá del 13 al 15 de octubre sobre el tema "El desarrollo al servicio de las personas", que se centrará en la seguridad alimentaria, ofrecerá a las ONG y al sector privado una ocasión propicia para aportar sus puntos de vista a la Cumbre. En este contexto, quiero agradecer los esfuerzos continuos que está desplegando el Canadá para garantizar el éxito de la celebración del cincuentenario de la FAO y de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

La buena preparación de la Cumbre depende también en buena medida de la calidad de los documentos. Esa es la razón por la que la FAO está prestando la mayor atención a la preparación de los documentos tanto de carácter técnico como político. Los documentos técnicos decididos tanto directamente por la FAO, como en colaboración con otras instituciones, versarán sobre temas cuidadosamente seleccionados y permitirán a las delegaciones participar en los debates sustantivos con un conocimiento profundo de la cuestión. Los documentos de política serán objeto de un examen pormenorizado antes de ser aprobados por los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno. Por lo demás, el examen de estos documentos se inició ya durante el último período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial que, en su condición de órgano técnico, está llamado a desempeñar una función de primer orden en la preparación de la Cumbre. El documento que contiene los elementos que podrían incluirse en el proyecto de declaración de política y plan de acción sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial y que se presenta a la consideración de ustedes, es una versión revisada del documento inicial, en la que se han tenido en cuenta las principales observaciones formuladas por el Comité.

¿Qué más podría decir? Sesenta y un Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de Africa, Asia, América Latina y el Caribe, América del Norte, Europa y el Cercano Oriente se han comprometido ya personalmente a apoyar la Cumbre. Además, varias conferencias de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, así como en reuniones de Ministros de Agricultura y de Relaciones Exteriores han apoyado la propuesta de convocar la Cumbre. No creo que pueda haber un estímulo mejor para proseguir la tarea.

Señor Presidente, el Consejo tiene que abordar un programa y una documentación de extraordinaria amplitud. Mis colegas y yo mismo nos esforzaremos por explicar los aspectos en que el Consejo desee profundizar. Sus puntos de vista y sus conclusiones constituyen un elemento esencial del proceso de adopción de decisiones en esta Organización y representan para la Dirección General un instrumento valiosísimo de orientación.

Les deseo, pues, el mayor de los éxitos en el desempeño de su labor.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Señor Director General, el Consejo le agradece a usted sus múltiples comentarios que abarcaron desde la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación mundial y las graves tendencias que de converger podrían llevar a agravar la situación alimentaria mundial; también los avances que ha realizado usted en la implantación de las decisiones del 106° período de sesiones del Consejo, así como las limitaciones que ha encontrado usted, todas ellas superables, en la implantación de la descentralización. Asimismo los importantes avances en materia de cooperación técnica y en llevar a cabo la lucha en contra de múltiples plagas y en impulsar la producción agrícola y mejorar la situación alimentaria en países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos.

Hemos tomado también debida nota de los avances en la preparación y la conceptualización de la Cumbre Mundial de Alimentos, la exposición de motivos que usted ha hecho, así como las consultas realizadas y los preparativos de bajos costos, seguramente guiarán nuestros debates al respecto, y finalmente lo que se ha avanzado en la preparación del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y la celebración del cincuentenario de la FAO.

Por todo esto y por otras múltiples observaciones, deseo agradecerle, y quiero también comentar que el documento que contiene la declaración del Director General será distribuido y estará disponible más tarde bajo el documento CL 108/INF/5.

Deseo preguntar a los distinguidos miembros del Consejo si desean referirse a la declaración del Director General.

En ese caso sólo me queda, Señor Director General, volver a agradecerle y confirmar que su guía y sus observaciones serán muy importantes en los debates que tendremos.

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

7. Revised Draft of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

7. Projet révisé de Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable

7. Proyecto revisado del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos delegados de acuerdo con las decisiones del último Consejo, tenemos ante nosotros el análisis de la situación que guarda en su elaboración el Código de Conducta sobre la Pesca Responsable. A más de cuatro años de que el Comité de Pesca en su 19° período de sesiones lanzara la iniciativa de este importante instrumento internacional, y que tiene un carácter sectorial para lograr un desarrollo sostenible de la pesca, los órganos rectores de nuestra Organización, así como la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, la Cumbre de Río y la reciente reunión Ministerial de Pesca, todas ellas han reiterado la importancia y la necesidad de que sea aprobado este instrumento en la próxima Conferencia en octubre. Este Consejo tiene, por tanto, la responsabilidad de tomar las medidas necesarias para cumplir con el mandato de la Conferencia y del último Consejo. En el último Consejo, como ustedes recordarán, se analizó el avance logrado a través de un proceso transparente y los gobiernos y las organizaciones internacionales gubernamentales y no gubernamentales han sido ampliamente consultadas e involucradas. Nuestro Consejo de noviembre pasado determinó que después de que el COFI revisara el Proyecto del Código, y que conforme a sus facultades lo endosara, lo remitiese a este Consejo, el cual determinaría la necesidad de establecer un Comité Técnico abierto para la participación de todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO para que avanzara en la finalización del texto del Código y asegurar, como se ha indicado, que se transmita a la Conferencia.

Les recuerdo que el Comité de Pesca estableció para ello un grupo de trabajo cuyos términos de referencia fueron de continuar con los procesos anteriores para ir finalizando y endosando las secciones correspondientes del Código. Dado que este grupo de trabajo fue más allá del término del propio COFI, corresponde a nuestro Consejo endosar esas partes terminadas y revisar las faltantes. Todo esto, y en los términos de referencia del Comité Técnico que podríamos crear y del trabajo que tendría, lo explicará el Dr Krone, a quien a continuación le daré la palabra.

W. KRONE (Assistant Director-General a.i., Fisheries Department): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, I will be very brief. As you already indicated, it was your Council itself who suggested that you might wish to set up a Technical Committee in order to elaborate further the detailed provisions of the Code.

The present status of the Code is as follows: After COFI and, more specifically, a working group set up by COFI went through it, Articles 8 and 11 were finalized by the Technical Consultation which met last October and then by the COFI working group. Article 5, which deals with the general principles, has been the subject of several reviews and a draft of two additional provisions of principles was requested by the COFI working group and these have been added now.

Articles 1 to 4bis have also been revised by the Secretariat following a number of general directives given to us by the working group at COFI. Articles 6 and 7 were revised by the Technical Consultation last October with the exception of those principles which are marked with an asterisk, and these have been, in accord with your own decision, kept in abeyance pending the outcome of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which has scheduled its last session now for July/August this year. It is highly satisfactory to note that the UN Conference, at its last session in April, has achieved considerable progress in the content and form of the outcome, leaving practically only two articles of the draft agreement for final negotiation, and the text needs still to be harmonized in the different languages.

Now the Council is requested to set up a technical committee which would work in parallel with your session. We have made provisions for interpretation to start this afternoon and go on until Friday morning. We have requested, in the circular letter you have received, that you might wish to have this technical committee finalize Articles 1 to 5 and endorse - that means make it your Articles 8 to 11. The technical committee might also be able to take care of some other elements considered necessary for the finalization of the Code.

It has also been indicated that, given the work still required to finalize the Code and the considerable progress already achieved at the UN Conference, you might wish the Technical Committee to also look into Article 7, at least all those paragraphs which do not have an asterisk. In this article only 3 principles carry an asterisk, and they refer to port state and flex state responsibilities, and these are issues which have been largely clarified in New York. However, this is, of course, entirely left to you. We do not wish to give the impression of interfering in any way with your progress.

It is obvious that the finalization of both Articles 6 and 7 will have to await the final outcome of the New York Conference, which we now expect in early August. At this stage we will consult informally with the countries concerned on how this can best be done. By that time the Secretariat will have distributed a new Secretariat draft of these Articles 6 and 7, and we will envisage that it might not be too difficult to achieve consensus on the new text.

However, it will certainly be necessary to have another technical discussion prior to the next session of your Council in October. I would suggest that you might wish to keep operative this Technical Committee which you set up during this session and ask the Secretariat to convene it after conclusion of the New York Conference and before the next session of your Council in order that the whole text including Articles 6 and 7 of the Code can be finalized and be submitted to your next session for your approval and final onward submission to the 28th session of the Conference.

Now, with these arrangements we feel we have a reasonable chance to get this work completed in accordance with the schedule we have been given by our last Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Doctor Krone. Conforme a los comentarios del Doctor Krone me permito, por tanto, someter a la decisión del Consejo: Primero la constitución de un Comité Técnico abierto a la participación de todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO con los términos de referencia que nos ha propuesto el Doctor Krone. En segundo lugar, me permito proponerles que dicho Comité permanezca operativo hasta la próxima sesión que deberá realizarse antes del Consejo de octubre con el propósito de que podamos cumplir con el mandato de la Conferencia, confirmado luego por el Consejo y el COFI y que el 28º período de sesiones de la Conferencia pueda revisar y decidir respecto del Proyecto del Código de Conducta sobre Pesca Responsable.

¿Hay alguna objeción respecto de estas dos decisiones del Consejo?

J.C. REY (Observador de la Comunidad Europea): La Comunidad Económica Europea y sus 15 Estados Miembros apoyan la creación de un Grupo abierto de trabajo para continuar el examen del proyecto revisado del Código de Conducta. La constitución de este Grupo de trabajo nos parece indispensable si se quiere llegar a cumplir los objetivos fijados por la Conferencia de la FAO, a saber, la adopción de un texto integral para la próxima Conferencia que será en el próximo mes de octubre.

En nuestra opinión, el Grupo de trabajo debe prever una discusión íntegra de todos los puntos, incluidos aquellos que conllevan un asterisco, ya que el Código de Conducta tiene una vocación clara de un conjunto, sin perjuicio de los resultados de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre poblaciones compartidas y especies altamente migratorias. En este sentido, señor Presidente, apoyamos el mecanismo que asegure la continuidad de los trabajos del Grupo, de manera que se garantice la conclusión de los trabajos en tiempo útil. Es decir, para que podamos presentar un texto de aprobación para la próxima Conferencia. Y, por lo tanto, consideramos igualmente prever los mecanismos oportunos para una plena participación en nuestros trabajos de todos los miembros de la FAO que estén interesados en su participación.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): We are happy to welcome you once again as Chairman of our Council. May I seize the opportunity to officially congratulate the three Vice Chairmen. The three of them actually are personal friends and I do congratulate them.

Mr Chairman, this issue has been discussed during the meeting convened by the Group of 77 and we do support the idea of setting up this Technical Committee. I believe that all Member Nations should take part in this work. We should also invite observers, because some Member Nations do not have experts, and we hope that any Member Nation having any observations or remarks concerning this issue will submit these observations to the Secretariat.

As for Article 7 and the UN Conference, we hope that we shall be receiving the outcome of this meeting.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, muchas gracias, por estos dos comentarios de apoyo a nombre del Grupo de países.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): Mr Chairman, this is simply to confirm that we agree with the proposals that have been made by the Secretariat including the continuity proposed by Dr Krone in respect of the Technical Committee. On the question of the subject matter to be discussed by the Technical Committee at this session, I think that the arrangements again suggested by Dr Krone are more appropriate to the progress that has been undertaken in New York and we would like to be on record as suggesting that it is more appropriate to leave in abeyance certainly the asterisked portions of the text that still remain to be finalized in New York until such a time as those discussions are completed. In our view, that is the only way to ensure that there is no contradiction between these two discussions and to ensure complementarity.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguido delegado, como ya lo había dicho el Doctor Krone, los párrafos que tienen asterisco quedarán suspendidos de ser discutidos durante las reuniones del Comité Técnico. Desde luego, esperamos que se logre un progreso muy firme para que se pueda ir endosando las partes sustanciales del Código y no tenga que revisarse de nuevo la totalidad. Esta es la única forma de que podamos llegar a la Conferencia con un Proyecto firme, endosando en su mayor parte las instancias previas y, permitiendo a la Conferencia tomar una decisión.

Yo veo que no hay ningún miembro del Consejo que se oponga a la creación de este Comité Técnico. Por tanto, queda constituido.

He sido también informado de que existe la propuesta de que la mesa del Grupo de trabajo continúe siendo la mesa del Comité Técnico. Si ésta propuesta la confirma el Comité Técnico, ese será el caso. Adicionalmente les informo que el Comité Técnico se reunirá en la Sala Malaysia, a partir de las 14:30 horas del día de hoy, y que trabajará hasta el viernes día 9 de junio.

¿Hay alguna otra observación que deseen hacer?

En ese caso queda aprobado la constitución del Comité Técnico y sus términos de referencia y trabajo.

OTHER MATTERS

QUESTIONS DIVERSES

OTROS ASUNTOS

21. Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO: Draft Declaration on Food and Agriculture

21. Cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO: Projet de Déclaration sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture

21. 50° Aniversario de la FAO: Proyecto de Declaración sobre la Agricultura y la Alimentación

EL PRESIDENTE: Deseo señalar, a la atención de ustedes que este año se celebra el 50° aniversario de la fundación de nuestra Organización. La Declaración sobre la Agricultura y la Alimentación será una contribución duradera a las actividades de ese 50° aniversario en cuanto confirmación del propósito de trabajar de común acuerdo para alcanzar los nobles objetivos fijados por los fundadores de la FAO y expresados en su Constitución. La Secretaría ha preparado el Proyecto teniendo en cuenta la resolución del 27 período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Esa declaración ofrece un punto de encuentro para reafirmar nuestro compromiso con la FAO al tiempo que señala las prioridades de cara al futuro en los sectores de la alimentación, el desarrollo agrícola y rural y la conservación de los recursos naturales al adentrarnos en el nuevo siglo, el Siglo 21.

En las Conferencias regionales, como ustedes saben se discutió el contenido de ese proyecto de declaración y además, todos los Estados miembros han sido consultados por el Director General. Muchos Gobiernos han enviado sus comentarios que confirman o que buscan modificar dicho Proyecto de declaración. El que ustedes tienen enfrente es el producto de éstas consultas; ha sido preparado por la Secretaría tomándolas en cuenta, pero en caso de que Miembros del Consejo y Observadores tengan deseos de hacer nuevas contribuciones al Proyecto de declaración, y modificar su texto, entonces les propondría que creemos un Grupo de trabajo que se encargue de revisar esas modificaciones. Las razones son varias: primero, no desearía que en esta mañana convirtamos al Consejo en un gran Comité de Redacción en vista de que, recordarán ustedes, también los Observadores podrían hacer comentarios respecto a la Declaración. El Grupo de trabajo permitiría que fuera abierta a todos los miembros, una discusión al respecto. Hago estos comentarios porque sé, después de comentarlos, que hay varios países que tienen la intención a estas alturas de hacer nuevos comentarios para modificar el texto del Proyecto de Declaración.

También, si creamos ese Grupo de trabajos, debo advertirles que se tomarían en cuenta las observaciones y comentarios enviados por los otros Estados miembros que lo han hecho al Director General con el propósito de que no se discrimine a nadie y que el grupo de trabajo tenga claros términos de referencia al modificar el texto de Declaración.

En caso de que se confirme el interés en hacer modificaciones al texto del Proyecto, y que constituyamos tal Grupo de trabajo, éste trabajará el sábado, 10 de junio; no hay otra fecha para que éste se reúna, sin embargo, si el Comité Técnico de Pesca pudiera terminar antes, quizás podríamos utilizar el tiempo disponible entonces, para que dicho grupo de trabajo labore. Por tanto, ese aspecto, de carácter operativo, lo dejaría yo abierto. Consulto, por tanto, antes de entrar en materia, si hay países que deseen hacer observaciones y enmiendas al texto de la declaración sobre la agricultura y la alimentación.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Bien entendu, à l'instar de mon collègue égyptien, je me félicite de votre présidence et de ceux qui ont été élus vices-présidents.

Je voulais vous indiquer que j'ai quelques problèmes avec la procédure que vous proposez, notamment en ce qui concerne la création d'un petit groupe de travail, et je vais vous dire pourquoi. Sur le plan européen, nous avons regardé très attentivement le texte qui nous est proposé et nous avons une série d'amendements qui sont mineurs mais significatifs quant à leur sens général. Nous vous les transmettrons immédiatement par écrit. Nous n'avons donc pas l'intention de participer à un groupe de travail et nous distribuerons ces amendements aux autres membres du Conseil de manière à ce que tout le monde soit au courant.

Nous vous avons fait des propositions d'amendement le 6 octobre 1994 et nous les avons fait parvenir au Secrétariat. Nous avons pu constater qu'une partie d'entre eux avait été reprise dans la dernière version de la déclaration, mais en partie seulement. Nous avons donc une liste de propositions à renouveler que vous allez avoir selon la méthode que j'ai proposée. Nous considérons en effet qu'il faut insister sur un point essentiel que l'on retrouvera dans différents paragraphes et qui concerne la lutte contre la pauvreté et la question de l'accès à la nourriture, question essentielle pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire.

Je vois que le Directeur général appuie mon point de vue. Je crois que c'est très important. Nous estimons qu'il convient, par conséquent, de mettre davantage les gouvernements des pays où règnent la pauvreté et la faim en face de leurs responsabilités au-delà de l'aide internationale indispensable. De bonnes politiques nationales dans des conditions institutionnelles améliorées, notamment pour développer la participation des agriculteurs aux décisions, le crédit à l'investissement, la réduction des fractures ethniques ou religieuses; sur le plan politique, la réduction des inégalités entre régions et entre groupes sociaux, le respect des droits de l'homme, ce sont là des conditions qui permettraient une mobilisation collective au bénéfice de la sécurité alimentaire. Le rejet de ces mêmes responsabilités ne permettrait pas aux débats d'avancer car nous retomberions dans le même processus d'accusations réciproques entre le Nord et le Sud.

EL PRESIDENTE: Usted ha hecho ya algunas propuestas de enmienda al texto. Deseo preguntar a otras delegaciones, antes de abrir el debate - porque no pienso llevar a cabo una discusión para cambiar o modificar el texto de la declaración ahora - si tienen comentarios de enmienda que cambien el texto del proyecto de la declaración. ¿Hay otras delegaciones que lo quieran hacer? La Comunidad Europea lo ha indicado ya, y veo que hay varias delegaciones que así piensan. Distinguidos delegados, antes de darles la palabra para que hablen al respecto les propongo lo siguiente: sería difícil que ustedes enviaran los textos de cambio y que éstos se integraran efectivamente en un nuevo texto que luego se tendría que revisar, de todas maneras, por el Consejo, para la aprobación de todos. Creo que sería mucho más expedito y fácil para este Consejo, que las modificaciones se discutieran, si es brevemente mejor, pero que se discutieran, en un grupo de trabajo a la luz de lo que otros países han ya comentado y que las conclusiones a las que lleguen se presenten luego, la próxima semana, a este Consejo, bajo un nuevo proyecto de texto de declaración. Si comenzamos ahora a escucharles a ustedes en los puntos de modificación, podríamos pasarnos la mañana y la tarde del día de hoy.

Veo que hay varias delegaciones que desean hacer modificaciones; por tanto, mi propuesta y su decisión es constituir un grupo de trabajo que se reuniría en principio el martes, o si se puede antes; yo les avisaré. ¿Hay alguna objeción para constituir un grupo de trabajo abierto, repito, abierto, a todos los Estados Miembros?

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Monsieur le Président, je comprends bien que ce que vous nous proposez part d'une idée bonne et généreuse qui est de donner la possibilité à tout le monde d'avoir la parole. Mais il y a un excellent texte qui a été proposé par le Secrétariat et les amendements doivent être des amendements mineurs car l'architecture même du texte convient parfaitement.

Simplement, nous avons relu ce texte et il y a quelques éléments à ajouter. Donc, si tout le monde faisait la même chose, le Secrétariat pourrait compiler les propositions car je ferai remarquer que toutes les délégations ne sont pas suffisamment étoffées pour que nous puissions multiplier les groupes de travail. Par ailleurs, cela risque de rouvrir le débat sur l'excellent texte qui nous est présenté par le Secrétariat, texte qui présente un certain équilibre.

Je pense donc qu'il faut éviter la procédure que vous proposez. Sinon, nous allons rouvrir le débat alors que, d'après ce que j'ai compris, le Directeur général souhaite que ce texte soit mis au point le plus rapidement possible.

Voilà ce que je voulais dire pour soutenir la proposition que nous avons faite et qui, vous le voyez, n'est pas une proposition de discussion détaillée puisque nous allons vous remettre simplement les propositions d'amendements que nous faisons.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por su propuesta. Por tanto, en primer lugar, pregunto a las delegaciones si tienen modificaciones de carácter primario, es decir, no de carácter secundario como las que usted ha hecho. Pregunto, pues, antes de continuar: ¿hay alguna delegación que tiene modificaciones de carácter primario, es decir sustancial, sobre el texto del proyecto de declaración?

Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil): Thank you, Mr President. I have asked for the floor not on your question because you put that question to us after I had asked for the floor. I have asked the floor, Mr Chairman, to indicate that to me it is more appropriate to follow the procedure that you have suggested. It will save us in the end a lot of time because I can understand the proposal made by the distinguished Ambassador of France, to sound very practical, but if everybody just submits their amendments to the Secretariat thinking or hoping that they are minor amendments but what if some delegates do not happen to think that some amendments put forward by others are minor and consider them to be major changes to the text, then we have a situation that can only be settled by sitting down together in a work group, as suggested, to straighten up the situation; so I would suggest we move directly to what you have suggested rather than try to solve this in a practical way which may end up not being practical at all.

Yasuo ENDO (Japan): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. According to the French or EU Delegation I would like to make several comments on the Draft Declaration but first where it consists of the third point. The first is to further clarify the concept of the food security. If we work on the change in the concept of the food security which was ordinarily defined in the text.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señor Delegado, disculpe que le interrumpa, pero quiero que antes de entrar en la sustancia me permita usted llegar a una conclusión respecto a la forma en que procederemos. Entiendo que usted iba ahora a hablar de las tres cuestiones sobre las que tiene algunos comentarios, y la razón de haberle interrumpido es porque estamos resolviendo una cuestión de procedimiento; las cuestiones de sustancia a las que se referiría usted a continuación, las podríamos discutir después. Le pido, por tanto, que nos permita primero, ahora que sabemos que usted tiene consideraciones de sustancia, solucionar el problema de procedimiento. Le doy la palabra a la distinguida delegación de los Estados Unidos de América, pero quiero cerrar aquí la lista, en virtud de que ya sé que hay consideraciones de sustancia importantes que desean ustedes tratar. Disculpe, distinguido delegado de los Estados Unidos de América; ¿Desea Japón hacer algún otro comentario sobre el procedimiento?

Yasuo ENDO (Japan): Well, you see I thought that the Chairman has already adopted an easy way to address this matter following the procedure of the French Delegate, you see. Going back to the procedure matter, I want to express our view that we do not care which way it's going to take, this Session is going to discuss the substantive matter or if the Working Group is going to discuss the matter. The key point is the substantive matter must be duly discussed in any form whatsoever. That is my point. Thank you very much.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que los comentarios que recibamos de los delegados que se han inscrito sean exclusivamente sobre el procedimiento y nos permitan identificar si están de acuerdo o no lo están.

James W. SCHROEDER (United States of America): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. The United States would like to support the Chairman's suggestion to form an informal Working Group. We would be pleased to participate in that effort; in the words of a prominent talk show host, we would only say to your colleague from Brazil "ditto".

J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom): Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I do not want to prolong the proceedings but simply want to say that my delegation has more than simple drafting changes to propose. We have points of substance we wish to raise. As to the procedure for doing so, I am very open and happy to go with any system that speeds our work and gets to an early result.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Monsieur le Président, bien entendu, je ne voudrais pas rompre le consensus si nous allons dans la direction d'un groupe de travail. Mais, pour en faciliter les travaux, je pense qu'il faudrait que ce groupe de travail dispose d'un document dans lequel seraient mises, entre parenthèses, les différentes propositions de modifications qui vous seront transmises, de manière à ce que l'on se concentre sur les points de discussion afin d'éviter de tout refaire.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me parece que es muy correcta su observación. Podemos entonces proceder así. El Consejo establece un grupo de trabajo informal, abierto a la participación de todos los Estados Miembros, en primer lugar; en segundo lugar, el grupo de trabajo determinará la presidencia del mismo; en tercer lugar, el grupo de trabajo contará con un documento que contenga las enmiendas adicionales que ustedes, distinguidos delegados y observadores, enviarán a la Secretaría durante esta semana, así como una relación de las enmiendas que con anterioridad, repito, con anterioridad, sus Gobiernos enviaron al Señor Director General.

El grupo de trabajo, en principio, trabajará el sábado día 10 de junio, pero, y esto lo dejo abierto, es posible que podamos, quizás, adelantar los trabajos en el caso de que el Comité Técnico termine antes sus labores.

Delegados, se acuerda entonces, si no hay ninguna objeción, constituir un grupo de trabajo.

Yasuo ENDO (Japan): As the proposed working schedule is concerned I decline to accept your idea. Saturday June 10 is behind my schedule. I am supposed to go back Thursday morning, so you see, therefore that tentatively the First Session needs to be convened some time after twelve this afternoon or tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. That kind of consideration is highly appreciated. Thank you very much Mr Chairman. I rather hate to spend time for this procedure matter but you see we have a substantive point which we would like to express. Therefore if you stick to such as scheduled I would like to express three points at this moment. Could you allow us to express a few comments which is substantive to this matter?

EL PRESIDENTE: Esta cuestión la hemos discutido ya con la Secretaría de la FAO. Entienda Usted que hay un Comité Técnico que está ya trabajando; hay una obvia limitación de Interpretación; el Comité de Redacción se reunirá también a trabajar pronto, y la única forma de acomodar un nuevo grupo de trabajo es para el sábado; sin embargo, le vuelvo a repetir que, en la medida en que el Comité Técnico termine sus labores antes del viernes, el grupo de trabajo podría ocupar el espacio y la Interpretación de dicho Comité para trabajar en lugar de éste. Le pido a usted su indulgencia; entienda las circunstancias de carácter infraestructural que las limitan, y si no hay ninguna otra objeción, repito, el grupo de trabajo queda constituido y tendrá su primera sesión, en principio, el sábado. Adicionalmente, me recuerda la Secretaría que en vista de los documentos que ustedes han pedido se presenten, éstos no podrían estar listos por lo menos hasta el final de esta semana. Distinguidos Delegados, espero su comprensión y les agradezco su apoyo.

No he cerrado el debate sobre este tema. Vamos todavía a escuchar una importante declaración de parte del Secretario de Estado del Canadá, el señor Fernand Robichaud, sobre los preparativos y sobre la propia declaración; usted también podrá hacer uso de la palabra en relación a ese tema; sin embargo, les suplico a los distinguidos delegados se abstengan de hacer comentarios relativos a las modificaciones del proyecto de declaración y solamente lo hagan en términos generales respecto de este evento y el tema que nos corresponde.

La próxima semana, una vez que el grupo de trabajo haya terminado, tendremos frente a nosotros el nuevo proyecto de declaración que el Consejo podrá endosar. Si no hay ningún otro comentario, señores delegados, este Consejo se honra en escuchar al Señor Secretario de Estado de Canadá, señor Fernand Robichaud, quien tiene la palabra.

Fernand ROBICHAUD (Canada): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Chers Délégués et Observateurs, je suis heureux de me retrouver encore parmi vous, les membres de la FAO, pour cette cent huitième session du Conseil.

En octobre dernier, j'ai eu le plaisir de vous présenter un tableau exhaustif des préparatifs et des événements prévus pour souligner le cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO.

Aujourd'hui, j'aimerais plutôt aborder trois points que le Canada tient à faire valoir. En premier lieu, je vous donnerai un sommaire des progrès réalisés depuis notre dernière rencontre et, par la suite, je vous ferai part de mon point de vue concernant le projet de Déclaration mondiale sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture et le thème de la réunion ministérielle.

Comme vous le savez, c'est dans la vieille capitale - c'est-à-dire la ville de Québec - là même où fut fondée la FAO, il y a 50 ans - que se tiendront les événements entourant le cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO, soit le Symposium international, l'exposition technique, la réunion des ministres et la commémoration du cinquantième anniversaire.

Lors de la cent septième session du Conseil de la FAO, le programme préliminaire ainsi que les dépliants et une campagne promotionnelle de grande envergure ont vu le jour. Je suis heureux de vous annoncer aujourd'hui qu'à peine quelques mois plus tard des progrès remarquables ont été réalisés par le Comité organisateur. De fait, depuis octobre 1994, plus de 11 000 invitations au Symposium ont été distribuées à travers le monde. Le Canada a fait la promotion du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO dans de nombreux salons commerciaux et agricoles à l'échelle internationale. Quatre-vingts pour cent des espaces alloués à l'exposition technique sont déjà réservés; les ambassades et consulats canadiens ainsi que les bureaux extérieurs de la FAO ont tout mis en branle pour assurer une représentation massive non seulement des gouvernements étrangers mais aussi du secteur privé et des organismes internationaux professionnels et de développement.

Comme le temps file, je ne voudrais pas parler de tous les détails entourant les préparatifs effectués par mon pays. Cependant, M. Jean-Louis Caron, Directeur général du Secrétariat du Symposium, se fera un plaisir de répondre à toutes vos questions relatives au Symposium et à l'exposition technique. Pour ce faire, je vous prie de vous rendre au kiosque situé à l'entrée du Salon Rouge.

Mes chers collègues, octobre 1995 arrive à grand pas.

Permettez-moi maintenant de prendre quelques minutes pour souligner l'importance que revêt, pour l'ensemble de la communauté internationale, l'oeuvre accomplie par la FAO à ce jour et le projet de Déclaration mondiale sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Lors de la rencontre ministérielle prévue pour les 14 et 16 octobre prochain, on demandera à l'ensemble des pays membres de réaffirmer leur adhésion aux principes de la FAO. Ainsi, nous serons en mesure de poursuivre le grand défi amorcé par les fondateurs de cet organisme il y a 50 ans. Il s'agit là d'un engagement majeur, d'un engagement qui mettra les pays membres en présence de nombreux défis découlant d'un environnement mondial en constante évolution. Il s'agit là aussi d'un engagement qui demande réflexion, car sans aucun doute nous portons sur nos épaules une responsabilité lourde de conséquences. En effet, c'est aujourd'hui notre tour de nous porter garants du devenir de la FAO. Notre enjeu: définir ensemble les moyens et la structure qui nous permettrons, par l'entremise de la déclaration de Québec, de trouver des solutions à la faim et à la malnutrition qui sévissent malheureusement autour de nous.

C'est afin de contrer ce fléau que mon pays a mis sur pied des activités pour le cinquantième anniversaire qui soient conformes aux objectifs de la FAO et orientées vers l'avenir de cette dernière. C'est ce même objectif qui porte mon pays à recommander quelques modifications à l'ébauche du texte de la Déclaration de Québec.

En premier lieu, la Déclaration de Québec ne doit pas se révéler un texte appuyant les intérêts de tout un chacun mais plutôt de la communauté internationale. Je tiens à vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre initiative de créer un groupe afin de regarder de plus près certains des éléments du texte.

Par conséquent, je me limiterai à un seul commentaire. Le texte actuel est un peu trop long. Une déclaration d'une page aurait un impact beaucoup plus considérable. Je propose donc que le texte de la Déclaration se limite aux trois premiers paragraphes du préambule et aux deux paragraphes du dispositif; le dernier de ces deux paragraphes comprenant simplement le titre des quatre sections. Tout le reste du texte pourra apparaître en annexe du document.

De plus, la FAO doit reconnaître que les organismes internationaux doivent s'adapter eux aussi à un environnement en constante évolution, tout en conservant une ferme emprise dans l'établissement de leurs normes et priorités. Conséquemment, je crois que la Déclaration de Québec doit témoigner de l'importance, pour la FAO, de fixer des priorités et de diviser avec soin les tâches au sein du système multilatéral mondial. Je crois sincèrement qu'il est du devoir des pays membres de rechercher, dans la Déclaration de Québec, un texte évocateur et tout aussi pertinent que le texte signé par nos prédécesseurs il y a 50 ans, un texte qui pourra guider et inspirer l'action de la FAO au cours des prochaines années, nonobstant un environnement changeant.

Il est de mon avis que la Déclaration de Québec doit plutôt servir de texte-cadre, c'est-à-dire de document de référence à l'orientation d'ensemble des activités de la FAO, à un texte qui soit l'interprétation des contenus indépendants du temps, comme je l'ai souligné auparavant.

Qui plus est la déclaration que l'on va examiner, une fois entérinée va devenir l'assise, la toile de fond de la FAO tout au moins jusqu'au soixante-quinzième anniversaire de cette dernière. N'oublions pas que c'est ce texte qui nous permettra de réaffirmer notre adhésion aux principes de la FAO et de la solidarité internationale qui unit les pays membres et c'est ce même texte qui ouvrira la voie à des solutions justes, efficaces et avant-gardistes aux problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition auxquels la planète terre sera inévitablement confrontée.

La Déclaration de Québec fait mention par ailleurs de deux points précis avec lesquels je suis tout à fait d'accord. En effet, on y discute de la question du rôle moteur de la FAO et des services rendus aux pays membres et à la communauté internationale, et l'on y traite d'une FAO à vocation renouvelée qui soit active, transparente et efficace.

J'aimerais maintenant aborder le troisième point dont je désire vous faire part. Ce point est la question du thème proposé pour la réunion ministérielle des 14 et 16 octobre. Je crois que le thème proposé par Monsieur Diouf: l'investissement pour nourrir le monde, est très bien choisi. Afin d'établir un lien étroit avec le thème du Symposium: l'humain au coeur du développement, je crois que l'on devrait envisager de lui donner une connotation aussi large que possible.

En guise de conclusion, laissez moi vous rappeler que le succès des événements entourant le cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO est directement lié au taux de participation du secteur privé et des organismes non gouvernementaux. D'ores et déjà, ces derniers nous ont déjà démontré leur volonté de participer à ces événements en réservant plus de 80 pour cent des espaces alloués à l'exposition technique. J'ose espérer que les Ministres de l'agriculture du monde entier feront preuve d'autant d'enthousiasme en participant en grand nombre à cette réunion ministérielle qui représente une occasion sans précédent de façonner l'orientation à long terme de la stratégie mondiale en alimentation et en agriculture de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie et à bientôt.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señor Secretario de Estado del Canadá, en nombre del Consejo de la FAO le agradezco a usted sus comentarios y la información que nos ha proporcionado sobre los preparativos de la Celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y del 50º Aniversario de la FAO en Quebec, así como sus observaciones respecto del concepto y el propósito del Proyecto de Declaración y respecto del tema que se discutirá en la reunión ministerial.

Distinguidos delegados, ¿algún otro miembro del Consejo desea hacer uso de la palabra?

Yasuo ENDO (Japan): First of all, we too would like to express our appreciation for the effective preparation of this meeting. I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Canadian Delegation and the Canadian Government. From the Japanese side, we are encouraging Japanese NGOs and the private sector to actively participate in the 50th anniversary celebrations of FAO in Quebec. I would like to stress that the Quebec Declaration is extremely important for two reasons. First, it will have the authority to review and define the laws of FAO on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary based on the recent situation of world food and agriculture.

Secondly, it would be a starting point for the proposed World Food Summit in 1996 suggested by the Director-General seeking the basic points of security.

So far as the substantive point of the Quebec Declaration is concerned, as mentioned previously, I would like to suggest three points. The first point is a further clarification of the concept of Food Security. We welcome the change in the concept of Food Security which was originally defined in the one for developing countries in the last draft. However, the newly drafted Declaration contained such wording as "universal food security". I would like now to point out that this concept should be further elaborated in a multi-dimensional and practical manner taking into account the realistic food and agriculture problems of various countries in the world. As to detail, further consideration is needed as to (a) the different aspects of food in security depending on the various stages of economic development and (b) the difference in the means to attain food security. Based on these considerations, several different types of food security might emerge.

The second point is that in order to consider future food and agriculture in the world, a factor which might lead to a great structural change in food demand is gradually becoming apparent and coming into reality. This factor has some different features from the usual "hunger and malnutrition" factor and also is different from the problem of the gap between the rate of crop yield increase and the rate of population increase.

This factor is the reason behind high economic developments of densely populated developing countries and accompanying improvements in the standard of living. These two combined factors are leading to higher food consumption levels and also to increasing demand for high quality and diversified foods. This new factor might cause a huge structural change in food supply and demand situation and could be comparable to those key problems such as agricultural land exploitation to the limit, excessive use of natural resources, and degradation of environment which are all listed in the part "AWARE" in the preamble.

This phenomenon is often seen in Asian countries in particular, such as in countries in East Asia and China and ASEAN countries. Asian economies which have more than half of the world population, are now growing at nearly 10 per cent annually and the impact of this on food demands will be not only on food grain but also on seed grain, meat and other value-added products.

In view of the expected magnitude of the impact, this new factor will affect both the food security of Asian countries and that of countries in other regions of the world. Therefore, the economic development factor should be one of the most important factors when considering world food security.

My country, being the largest net importer of food in the world, has naturally a strong interest in this kind of structural change in food supply and demand in considering its own future food security.

The first point is that the agricultural and rural community is the source of food supply but also they have other multiple functions to play in response to varied requirements from consumers, nationals and national economists depending on the state of development of a country. We can easily observe that at an early stage of economic development, agriculture usually plays a single function to supply food. However, at higher development stages, the multiple functions such as the maintenance of regional economies, the conservation of land and environment as well as maintenance of regional culture and traditions are more and more valued. What is particularly important in this respect is that appropriate evaluation of these multiple functions often contribute to the establishment and development of sustainable agriculture.

Later we will present comments in written form on certain points. Of course, as has been suggested to delegates, we also agree that this Declaration needs to be as short as possible. With those suggestions we will make the comments in written form.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco mucho el apoyo general a la Declaración y también el que nos haya ofrecido de manera temática una visión respecto de los comentarios que tiene sobre el proyecto, que se discutirán en el Grupo de Trabajo. Le suplico, por tanto, que envíe usted esos comentarios ya específicos de redacción a la Secretaría a la mayor brevedad posible.

J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I will try and be as brief as possible. Can I join you and others in thanking the distinguished delegate of Canada for his very important statement and thanking his government for the arrangements for this very important Summit? I thought what he had to say about the content of the Declaration was extremely important and therefore I would like to share his view and that of the previous speaker that there should be a short, to-the-point statement on this very important, forward-looking document which, as you said yourself, Mr Chairman, points to meeting the real needs and challenges of the next century.

That is how it will be looked at and I think - if I can put it crudely - it is very important that we get it right. We will certainly play our full part in the Working Group to try and do that.

It being a forward-looking document, we believe it also should reflect more in the draft what I think is an excellent, very forward-looking document - indeed it is the one we will look at tomorrow - which is the draft policy document on food security. We would very much like to see a flavour of that document somehow, in brief form of course, in the Summit document.

We feel, I hesitate to say it, as presently drafted the Summit document tends to look back a bit. I was too young to remember this of course but the discussion in the 1960s had a high status orientation for the development of natural resources, and we think it very important not to take that approach but to recognize the importance of the policy environment, the appropriate role of government and the importance of the private sector in promoting food, agriculture and rural development.

The other thing I would say on this point, Mr Chairman, is that the old way of doing things in the United Nations was to make very long declarations. I think we ought to ring the changes here and have something that other organizations can point to as a very important and effective document which does not take that line and I am sure that is in the mind, if I may say so, of the Director-General.

We do think it is important to give emphasis in the draft to the necessity for an appropriate policy environment for the development of food and agriculture production, to the role of the private sector, to the NGOs and all the actors who will predominate in the agricultural and rural development activities.

I think it will be important also, if I can say, to avoid as much as possible - and this is a drafting point but I promise this is the only one I will make - the use of the word "crucial". I think it is a much overworked word and I think it is important in setting goals that FAO recognize in that document what its primary role is and set it out in that document.

I will stop there, Mr Chairman, and only say very finally that this document is very important for my delegation. It will be extremely important that we can all work together to produce an acceptable draft which will enable us to sign up to it.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco mucho el apoyo general a la declaración y, también, el que nos haya ofrecido, de manera temática, una visión de los comentarios que tiene sobre el proyecto, los mismos que se discutirán en el Grupo de trabajo. Le suplico, por tanto, que envíe usted esos comentarios ya específicos de redacción a la Secretaría a la mayor brevedad posible.

James W. SCHROEDER (United States of America): Mr Chairman in the spirit of the Declaration we hope emerges from the Working Group I will be very brief, but I did want to take the opportunity for my delegation to endorse the comments and recommendations made by Minister Robichaud, our friend, our colleague and our neighbour from the North.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguido Delegado. Yo creo que todos los miembros del Consejo comparten con usted ese sentimiento.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Señor Presidente, en primer lugar, permítame hacerle llegar nuestra complacencia de verlo presidir otra vez este importante período de sesiones, que, además de sentirnos confiados por su segura conducción, nos proporciona el agrado de escuchar ese idioma claro, de bellos matices y musicalidad, que es el español. A este respecto, no podríamos dejar de resaltar, dentro de la completa intervención del señor Director General, su parte realizada también en español, que es justo reconocer que cada vez es mejor. También señor Presidente, deseamos, en nombre de nuestra delegación, agradecer muy sinceramente nuestra elección para una de las Vicepresidencias de este importante Consejo, así como agradecer también las referencias de reconocimiento expresado por varios colegas y, también, felicitar a las otras dos Vicepresidencias correspondientes a las delegaciones de Túnez y de los Estados Unidos de América. Queremos agradecer la información escuchada otra vez aquí, por nuestro conocido Ministro Robichaud, que en su palabra autorizada nos brindó la oportunidad de reconocer a los miembros de este Consejo el amplio trabajo de organización realizado por Canadá para que Quebec sea el lugar propicio para este magno acontecimiento del Cincuentenario de la FAO, así como sus comentarios, coincidiendo en su idea de brevedad, pues entendemos que cuando se es breve y bueno, se es bueno dos veces. También su proyección de futuro y, primordialmente, su voluntad política.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido delegado por sus comentarios.

CONGMENG LIU (China) (Original language Chinese): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Our declaration of food and agriculture was discussed by member countries at their relevant regional conferences.

The Asian Pacific member countries discussed it in Manila in October last year. The Chinese delegation has expressed its opinions, and we have supplied our formal information to the Director-General. We are very happy to see that the new text of the draft has incorporated comments made by 43 Member States.

On the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of FAO, we thank the representative of Canada for his introduction. Over the 50 years since FAO's founding, considerable progress has been made in the food and agriculture in the world. The *per caput* food supply has increased markedly, and people's multi-nutritional level has improved.

However, as the Director-General has pointed out, there are still two major challenges facing the world food and agriculture. There are still 800 million people in the world suffering from malnutrition; 67 percent are in Asia and 80 million in China. Therefore, various countries and the international community as a whole need to redefine the important role of agriculture in the development of national economy to increase agricultural production so as to improve food production, increase farmers' income, and improve their living standards. This is also FAO's mandate.

Therefore, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to this draft declaration and we are willing to exchange views with FAO and to join hands with all countries in the world to establish a cooperative partnership with all countries to eliminate hunger, malnutrition, establish food security systems, so as to guarantee a sustained development of agriculture.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido delegado por sus comentarios y su apoyo a la declaración.

¿Hay alguna otra Delegación u Observador que desea hacer uso de la palabra?

En caso negativo voy a permitirme ofrecérsela al doctor Zenny. Tiene usted la palabra, Secretario General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you. Mr Chairman and honourable delegates, perhaps more in the spirit of setting the record straight and supplementing what the Chairman said - I just want to remind the honourable delegates that the Secretariat, in response to Resolution 4/93 of the 27th Session of the FAO Conference, did prepare the draft declaration. That declaration went to the regional conferences in 1994. It was also, as you yourselves have pointed out, circulated to all member countries, inviting them to submit their comments in writing to the Director-General. By far the majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with the draft, with 14 Member Governments indicating full agreement with the text as submitted.

Most of the amendments suggested were incorporated. Particularly extensive revisions were received from the Government of Canada. In fact, we received a new draft declaration from them, and the text before you is basically the Canadian redraft with comments and suggestions from other governments incorporated, including therefore the Government of Japan. However, I do take the point, and I think we are all agreed, that the text should be forward looking, should be precise, and should empower our organization to go from strength to strength.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Zenny por sus aclaraciones. Este tema no lo vamos a cerrar puesto que el grupo de trabajo deberá operar en los próximos días, el sábado en principio, y la próxima semana el informe o las conclusiones del Grupo de trabajo serán recibidas por el Consejo y el nuevo Proyecto de declaración revisado y, espero, endosado.

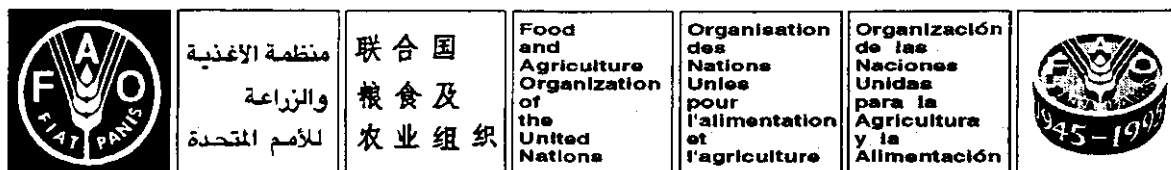
Distinguidos Delegados, si no tienen ustedes ningún otro comentario, levantamos la sesión y nos reuniremos hoy por la tarde a las 14:30 horas.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours.

La séance est levée a 12 h 50.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas.

5 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108° período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

5 June 1995

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.45
horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

OTHER MATTERS (continued)**QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)****OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)**

- 21. Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO: Draft Declaration of Food and Agriculture (continued)**
- 21. Cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO: Projet de Déclaration sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture (suite)**
- 21. 50° Aniversario de la FAO: Proyecto de Declaración sobre la Agricultura y la Alimentación (continuación)**

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos delegados, antes de dar curso al Tema 5 deseo referirme a una petición de parte de la Secretaría de la FAO en relación al tema anterior, el proyecto de declaración sobre agricultura y alimentación. Como ustedes escucharon hoy en la mañana, varios delegados tenían algún comentario sobre dicho proyecto. La petición es que, para que podamos apresurar los trabajos del grupo de trabajo constituido, aquellas delegaciones que tengan observaciones las envíen por escrito a la mayor brevedad posible al Sr. Secretario General del Consejo. Esto le permitirá a la Secretaría preparar el documento para las discusiones informales del grupo de trabajo. Esperamos también que ese documento podamos distribuirlo el miércoles por la mañana.

WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION**SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE****SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION**

- 5. Report of the 20th Session of the Committee on World Food Security including the current World Food Situation**
- 5. Rapport de la vingtième Session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale y compris la situation mondiale de l'alimentation**
- 5. Informe del 20° período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial con inclusión del examen de la Situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo**

Me permito pasar ahora al Tema 5, el informe sobre el vigésimo período de sesiones del Comité sobre Seguridad Alimentaria que incluye el examen de la situación actual de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Documento CL 108/10 y documento CL 108/2. Como todos ustedes saben, este tema es de suma importancia para esta Organización, y las decisiones que sean tomadas por nuestro Consejo influirán además en los preparativos de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. Desde luego, y lo subrayo, este tema será tratado por este Consejo mañana por la mañana, conforme al calendario que hemos aprobado bajo el tema 4. En este sentido también, les pido que en sus declaraciones pospongan la discusión o el debate de la parte correspondiente del informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria relativo a la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, para discutirlo mañana. Les vuelvo a repetir que en la parte correspondiente del informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que se refiere a la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, traten ustedes de evitar una discusión amplia al respecto en virtud de que este tema lo trataremos mañana por la mañana.

También les aconsejaría que pudieran identificar en sus declaraciones la parte relativa a la situación de la seguridad alimentaria, es decir, el examen de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria, y la correspondiente a la agricultura sostenible y la seguridad alimentaria, así como la parte correspondiente a otros asuntos.

Respecto al primero de los asuntos, el relativo al examen de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria, deseo destacar, en lo que se refiere a las emergencias alimentarias, los párrafos 6 y 7 del informe. Quizás también ustedes desearán expresar su preocupación por la reducción de la ayuda alimentaria, párrafo 9; sobre las implicaciones de la Ronda Uruguay y el impulso a la actividad económica, párrafo 15; la posición divergente que tienen ciertos países y otros en desarrollo importadores de alimentos respecto de los efectos negativos a corto y medio plazo de dichas negociaciones, párrafo 16; también lo concerniente a los países europeos en transición y la importancia de la asistencia técnica y la ayuda alimentaria, párrafo 20. Les destaco que en el párrafo 18 se trata lo relativo a las reservas nacionales e internacionales de cereales y la preocupación por su disminución.

En cuanto a la parte relativa a la agricultura sostenible y la seguridad alimentaria, me permito llamar su atención sobre la importancia del acceso de las familias a la alimentación, el combate a la pobreza, la generación de empleo, así como el acceso a mayores oportunidades de ingreso. También el reconocimiento de condiciones agroecológicas, económicas, sociales e institucionales, párrafo 26, y la visión diferente respecto a atender áreas con alto potencial, bajo potencial o pobres en recursos para el impulso a la producción agrícola en países de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos, párrafo 27.

Finalmente les hago notar que en la versión en español del documento CL 108/10, en la segunda parte del párrafo 27 y el párrafo 28, tienen, aunque con redacción distinta, el mismo contenido; debe, por tanto, desaparecer la segunda parte del párrafo 27 en la versión en español que seguramente por omisión permaneció allí.

Para presentar el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y el documento sobre la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial le otorgo la palabra al señor de Haen.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Thank you Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Members and Observers. It gives me great pleasure to present to the Council the Report to the 20th Session of the Committee of World Food Security, and the Report CL 108/10. The Committee meeting which was held in April this year reviewed the current world security situation and the Medium-Term Review and also assessed the potentials for increasing staple food production for food security and low-income food-deficit countries. It also discussed the elements for the World Food Summit but, as the Chairman suggested, I shall leave those out of my presentation as this will be subject to a separate agenda item.

Mr Chairman as regards the current food situation, as the Director-General has made some remarks, I would refer to that and remind you that the Committee concurred with the Secretariat's analyses that showed that this was the position in April and an overall deterioration in the world food security situation during the current season. Unfortunately, information received since the conclusion of the Session has given us reason to be less optimistic with respect to wheat and coarse grain supplies during the 1995-96 season. Global stocks of these grains which constitute a substantial component of energy intake of many people all over the world are foreseen to be drawn down further. The ratio of world cereal stocks by the end of 1995-96 seasons to trend utilization in 1996/1997 is projected to fall below the 17 to 18 percent range which is the benchmark as considered by the Secretariat as the minimum necessary for world food security. Wheat carry-over stocks by the mid-1996 are projected to fall to their lowest level since the beginning of the 1980s, that is, around 106 million tonnes. A crucial factor for world food security has been the inventories held by the principal exporting countries which represent an important buffer to help meet crop shortfalls in importing countries. In this context the continuing decline of the wheat carry-overs constitutes an additional source of uncertainty in the global food security situation. So far our overall analysis of the recent information that we have received. It must however be stressed that changes in the structure and condition of the international markets may have already altered the significance of FAO's benchmark 17 to 18 percent stock to consumption ratios that we have been using so far. Therefore, while this very delicate balance will continue to be monitored closely, other indicators, especially international prices, exportable supplies and food aid availabilities will continue to receive our full attention as well. Mr Chairman, the Committee welcomed the broader scope of the assessment paper which provided a longer-term prospective on global food security issues. The analysis of the possible impact of the Uruguay Round of multi-lateral trade negotiations on food security in developing countries and the ensuing lively debate provided the basis of the request by the Committee to the Secretariat to reconsider the minimum safe level of global cereal stocks in light of significantly changed national and global food policy regimes and improved transport and logistics infrastructures. It also requested the Secretariat to continue to provide technical assistance to Members on developing modalities of the implementation of measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on vulnerable countries and to assist developing countries in the reconsideration of the optimum national food security stock in the opposed Uruguay Round world. These recommendations if confirmed and endorsed by Council - and that is why I bring it to your attention again - are most timely given the emerging situation in the international cereal markets.

The Committee's consideration of this Session of the linkages between sustainable agricultural development and food security focused on assessing the potentials and low income in food-deficit countries for increasing staple food production in a sustainable manner.

The Committee stressed that the identification and analysis of constraints hindering the exploitation of existing potential in these countries needed to be broadened to encompass the effects of political and social instability, the shortcomings in available human resources and institutional capacities, lack of foreign exchange, appropriate technology and credit facilities and insufficiently available appropriate inputs. In this context, Mr Chairman, many delegates supported the focus of the Special Programme on Food Production for Food Security on high potential areas for achieving rapid increases in food production in the low-income, food-deficit countries, taking into account the economic, social and institutional conditions that needed to be in place. Also of great significance was the emphasis that was placed and was to be placed on improving household access to food by alleviating poverty and generating employment and income opportunities. Many delegates also noted the necessity of programmes to support the high human potential in all areas in order to promote investments in environmentally sound, sustainable infrastructure, developing technologies and farming practices appropriate for resource-poor areas and using indigenous capabilities by strengthening national agricultural research systems.

The Committee thought that it would be opportune to carry out in-depth country studies which take into consideration the actual situations and most urgent requirements of the population in order to provide guidance to members in the design of food security programmes and projects. It wished to return to a sustainable agriculture and food security in the future sessions of the CFS, treating different aspects of the issues as recommended by the Committee and, of course, this still has to be endorsed by the Council in this Session.

Finally, Mr Chairman, let me very briefly remind the Council that the Committee considered the request by CO AG in its March 1995 Session for the Secretariat to analyse the arguments for and against a shifting of the standing item on nutrition from CO AG to CFS. This matter will be presented to you under Item 6 when you discuss the Report of COAG. In fact, under that item the Secretariat will propose this shift for the Council's consideration such that future CFS meetings would have a standing item on nutrition.

That is my brief summary of the report and I thank you for your attention.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por la presentación del informe, Sr. De Haen, y antes de abrir el debate deseo recordarles que la decisión que se somete al Consejo es la de aprobar el informe del vigésimo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Abro la lista de los miembros del Consejo y luego pasaré la palabra a los observadores.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Normalement, les pays européens n'interviendront pas sur ce sujet, car nous avons trouvé le rapport intéressant, bien fait, et il s'agit d'approuver le rapport. Donc normalement, nous approuvons le rapport et nous n'interviendrons pas. Nous espérons que la discussion qui va avoir lieu maintenant ne remettra pas en cause les résultats acquis au moment de la discussion du rapport.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguido delegado, entiendo su punto de orden, pero yo no pensaba hacer otra cosa, como sabe usted, que someter al Consejo la decisión principal, que es aprobar el informe y, sin embargo, está también previsto que pueda haber un debate respecto de estos temas, en particular de las tendencias quizá preocupantes, alarmistas en algún sentido, respecto al deterioro de la situación alimentaria. Quizá algunos de ustedes deseen hacer algún comentario al respecto.

Wilberforce A. SAKIRA (Uganda): Our Delegation continues to express its regret that the world food security situation has been deteriorating over the years and that in low-income, food-deficit countries cereal production did not keep pace with population growth in 1994-95, as shown in document CL 108/10. In fact, document CL 108/2, dealing with the current world food situation, paints a gloomy picture of food security in developing countries, particularly in Africa. Mr Chairman, let me bring out a few points which are in this document to illustrate my point.

First, food production in sub-Saharan Africa only rose by 1.2 percent, implying an almost two percent decline in per capita terms. This is shown in paragraph 2. Secondly, root crop production increased slightly by some one percent in developing countries, as shown in paragraph 5. Per caput staple food production declined in sub-Saharan Africa, reflecting stagnating food production and only a marginal increase in production of root crops. This is shown in paragraph 11. Africa is still the continent most affected by local food shortages for various reasons, including adverse weather.

Mr Chairman, what I have just said points to the need for FAO to assist Member Nations in developing appropriate policies and to encourage them to invest in agriculture so that they may ensure food security for the wellbeing of their peoples. It is for this reason that we support the measures recommended by the Committee on World Food Security, particularly with regard to the following. First, improvement of household access to food by alleviating poverty and generating employment and income opportunities. We recognize that poverty is the root cause of food insecurity and malnutrition. Second, placing emphasis on high potential areas so as to achieve rapid increases in food production in the low-income, food-deficit countries. Third, developing technologies and farming practices such as integrated pest management and integrated plant nutrition systems, water harvesting and anti-erosion measures suitable for resource-poor areas and strengthening national agricultural systems with the emphasis on improving indigenous capacities so as to develop high-yield varieties and, most important, higher-yielding technologies. Lastly, assisting Members to develop practical measures in post-harvest handling of agricultural produce, because we believe that farmers lose substantial quantities of food after harvesting.

Mr Chairman, we wish to emphasize that there is an urgent need to assist LIFDCs to boost their agricultural production, and it is for this reason that we strongly support the two special programmes of food production for food security in LIFDCs and the emergency prevention system for transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases which were launched by the Director-General last year.

Salah HAMDI (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): Puisque c'est la première fois que je prends la parole à cette session du Conseil, permettez-moi d'exprimer mes plus chaleureux remerciements à mes collègues et à l'ensemble des délégués pour avoir placé leur confiance en moi en m'élisant vice-président avec les deux autres vices-présidents de Cuba et des Etats-Unis.

Ce faisant, ils m'offrent l'occasion d'apporter mon humble contribution au succès des travaux de cette session sous votre sage direction et de bénéficier de votre vaste expérience et de votre sagesse dans ce domaine.

J'ai suivi avec beaucoup d'attention l'allocution du Directeur général qui a porté sur l'analyse de la situation actuelle de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde ainsi que de la situation de l'alimentation et de la sécurité alimentaire tout en posant les grandes lignes des activités de l'Organisation lors de la prochaine période biennale. Il a mis en exergue les défis majeurs auxquels doit faire face la communauté internationale notamment en ce qui concerne l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire et la consolidation de la sécurité alimentaire notamment pour les pays qui continuent à souffrir de malnutrition, de pauvreté, voire de famine, à un moment où les données dont on dispose font état d'une disponibilité importante de produits alimentaires qui auraient dû être à même de subvenir aux besoins de l'humanité. J'ai également pris connaissance des documents CL 108/2 et CL 108/10 élaborés par le Secrétariat de la FAO. Ces documents témoignent d'une grande compétence et traitent de la situation de la sécurité alimentaire et du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, questions inscrites au point 5 de notre ordre du jour.

Je tiens à exprimer certains motifs de préoccupation et à faire certaines remarques relatives à ces questions que je viens de mentionner. Je tiens d'abord à dire que nombre de pays amis d'Afrique du Nord et d'Afrique noire partagent le point de vue que je me propose d'exprimer.

Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne la situation alimentaire mondiale, si les données relatives à la production alimentaire témoignent d'une amélioration appréciable à l'échelle mondiale, la situation n'en demeure pas moins préoccupante pour l'Afrique et pour le Proche-Orient en particulier, où l'on constate une diminution de la production par habitant ainsi qu'une diminution de la production des produits alimentaires de base, ce qui entraîne un déficit alimentaire pour un grand nombre de ces pays, notamment des pays africains qui sont, en termes absolus, les pays les plus touchés au début de l'année courante par cette diminution, sans parler de la situation précaire qui prévaut dans certains pays du Proche-Orient et des Balkans. C'est là un motif de préoccupation et d'inquiétude d'autant plus que de manière concomitante à la détérioration de la situation alimentaire dans ces pays pauvres les situations politiques sont caractérisées par l'instabilité. Je disais qu'en même temps on assiste à un net recul du volume d'aide alimentaire comme l'indiquent les chiffres disponibles qui révèlent une nette régression pour la période 1994-95. Le volume total de cette aide alimentaire est revenu à 9,8 millions de tonnes contre 13 millions de tonnes au cours de la période biennale précédente. Cela ne peut que générer des répercussions négatives pour l'ensemble des pays en développement dont la part de cette aide est ramenée à 7 millions de tonnes dont 5 millions sont réservés aux pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier. Le CSA, lors de sa dernière session - comme l'indique le rapport de cette session au document CL 108/10 - a examiné cet état de fait et a constaté que l'aggravation de la situation met en danger la sécurité alimentaire internationale. Le Comité a exprimé sa profonde inquiétude face à la régression de l'aide alimentaire qui a eu un impact négatif sur la situation d'un certain nombre de pays en développement notamment les pays à faible revenu, tel que le révèle l'indicateur de sécurité alimentaire pour les ménages. Tout en rappelant à l'assistance toutes ces données nous tenons à attirer l'attention du Conseil sur la situation préoccupante qui menace la vie même et la sécurité alimentaire dans beaucoup de pays. Nous voudrions insister sur la nécessité pour le conseil d'entériner les recommandations issues de la dernière session du CSA et de mettre au point les directives et les orientations nécessaires afin que le Secrétariat de la FAO puisse renforcer son action dans la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition, que ce soit dans le cadre du Programme ordinaire ou dans les programmes d'action spéciale à condition bien entendu que l'Organisation trouve les ressources financières pour mener à bien une telle activité et pour venir en aide aux pays concernés de façon à mieux assurer la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays concernés.

Je voudrais en particulier mettre l'accent sur le rôle de la FAO en matière d'aide aux pays en développement dans leur effort de restructuration et leur action de développement agricole de manière à s'adapter aux dispositions de l'accord du GATT et à limiter les effets négatifs de cet accord issus des négociations de l'Uruguay Round notamment lors de la première phase de la mise en application effective de ces dispositions. Je pense notamment à la constitution de stocks de sécurité alimentaire sur le plan national, à la stabilisation des prix, à la réduction de l'impact de l'augmentation du prix des importations alimentaires notamment pour les pays importateurs de produits alimentaires notamment en Afrique et plus particulièrement en Afrique du Nord et au Proche-Orient.

Jalal RASSOLOF (Iran, Islamic Republic of): First, let me once again congratulate you on chairing this august meeting. My delegation wishes you every success in leading this session of the Council. I also congratulate the Vice-Chairman and members of the incoming Committee upon their election. Special thanks also go to the Secretariat for the preparation of high quality reports including the two documents and their considerations and especially Dr de Haen, for his excellent presentation of the reports under consideration.

Neither the current World Food situation nor the food security prospects of developing countries are promising. While the growth rate of developed countries' food production in 1994 was above the trend growth rate of the 1980s and early 1990s, in developing countries it compared unfavourably with the long-term trend. This situation is especially alarming in the Near East and North Africa where per caput food production declined in 1994 for the second consecutive year.

Total cereal production in developed countries in 1994 expanded by close to 8 percent while in developing countries it is estimated to have stagnated at 1993 levels. Adding a much higher population growth in the latter group, it is evident that both the production and consumption gap is widening between developed and developing countries which, in turn, lead to increasing related food insecurity, poverty and associated negative effects in developing countries.

Mr Chairman, consideration of statistics and figures of production and consumption at global level might be misleading in the sense that these global figures would cover the real existing difficulties of some regions, sub-regions and countries. For example, according to paragraph 8 of the document CL 108/2, the per capita staple food production increased from 377 kilograms in 1993 to 382 kilograms in 1994. More detailed data shows that in developing countries overall per caput staple food production in the same period was stagnant and even declined in North Africa and the Near East. In other words, this increase was limited to only two regions and mainly to one developed country.

Therefore, in order to have a more concise picture of the world food situation in the future, my delegation asks the Secretariat to prepare their reports in a more detailed fashion. In order to prevent unnecessary cost increases this practice can be limited to regions or countries which are facing food difficulties and need special consultation.

Mr Chairman, as far as food security is concerned, in addition to production decline, total food aid in cereals committed for 1994/1995 was estimated to be 20 percent below the previous period which is below the 1974 Food Conference minimum annual target for developing countries and the lowest level in almost two decades.

In addition, on the one hand, various reports of the CFS clearly shows that even in developed countries the rise and fall of output of food crops are mostly related to unfavourable or adverse weather conditions. On the other hand, the FAO's World Food Model shows that a 5 percent decline in production in trend for all cereals would cause a price rise of 30 to 73 percent, despite heavy drawdown on stocks. This would in effect result in a rise of at least 40 percent in the import bill of the developing countries. These facts, together with the existence of over 800 million hungry and malnourished people in the world, show that; firstly, food insecurity cases would remain high for the foreseeable future. Secondly, food aid is a risky source to depend on so far as combating the long-term security problem is concerned. Thirdly, due to the increase in international prices of major cereals and ever-increasing income deficit in low income households, more aid is needed to sustain their minimum level of food security. This is not an easy task.

It is not an easy task especially in face of domestic currency devaluations resulting from structural adjustment programmes. Therefore, as far as the supply side is concerned, one concludes that the most realistic solution to the food insecurity is increasing food production to offset the food deficit in developing countries. This in turn needs well organized location, specific research and training aimed at development of new appropriate low cost and environmentally friendly technology.

On the demand side, poverty elimination and social equality are two major problems demanding high priority and attention.

Mr Chairman, it is estimated implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement would add a yearly additional income of US\$213 billion to the world economy. My delegation congratulates those countries which shared this gain and hope that it brings them peace, posterity and development. But, there is another group of countries which are the losers, at least in the short run. My delegation's comments would be limited to this group.

There is much doubt that the Uruguay Round could lead to a greater international market price stability. The developing food importing countries could experience negative effects in terms of availability of adequate supplies of basic foodstuffs from external sources on reasonable terms and conditions.

According to the report submitted to the Intergovernmental Group on Grain, although the aggregate impact of the Uruguay Round on the global production of all grains combined is expected to be a negligible, shifts in production between commodities and regions is significant. This would certainly create huge difficulties for some developing countries. Aggregate utilization of wheat at the global level is expected to shrink by about 2 million tons. This reduction, despite production gain, is mainly due to widespread rise in consumer prices, the negative impact of which would certainly fall on the low-income population of the developing countries.

The FAO projection results suggest that the assumed income gain due to the Uruguay Round would be insufficient to offset the price induced reductions in the demand for wheat.

In addition, the general move by governments to disengage from supply management will cause a decline in government stockholding, which could in turn result in lower world stock levels and an increase in price, volatility and risk.

Mr Chairman, as for developing food countries on consent they either have to explain their meagre foreign exchange to pay for this increased cost and, therefore, postpone their technology imports and development or to decrease their grain imports and consumption and suffer its negative impact on the food security and health.

Mr Chairman, in light of these facts my delegation fully and strongly supports the conclusion and recommendation of intergovernmental group on grains - COAG, CFS, CCP and Council - on the issues under consideration; that is, first, assigning higher priority to the programme of food production in support of food security in net food importing countries and especially in LIFD countries. Second, in strengthening the national agricultural research system should receive increased attention and resources. Third, more attention should be paid to the role of women in food production and improve their situation. Fourth, FAO should provide technical assistance to net food importing in less developed countries in all aspects of the Uruguay Round agreement on agriculture, especially in the implementation of the Uruguay Round decision on measures concerning the possible negative effect of the reformed programmes on least developed and net food importing developing countries. Fifth, the monitoring of global stock levels in relation to their impacts on world market prices should continue to receive high priority. Sixth, FAO should respond to the continued need of its developing Member States in monitoring of their national grains policies in the course of time.

Mr Chairman, finally, I would like to very briefly touch upon policies of my country on the area of food security. The major and broad macro-level food security policy of the government is assuming highest priority to the development of agriculture in the national development plans. Other policy measures are creating employment opportunities, especially low-potential area, encouraging food production through appropriate price policies and investment incentives, and land-reform policies in favour of small landholders. These policies are complemented by a strong social welfare programme including distribution of low-cost staple food and heavy subsidization bread.

Application of these measures caused the average daily calorie and protein intake of the population to increase to a level of above average standards of developing countries, that is, 3 217 kilo calories and 85.6 grams of protein. During our First Five Year Development Plan (1989-93), we have successfully implemented a pivotal plan of wheat improvement which contributed greatly to our food security objectives by increasing wheat production from 7 to 11 million tons, an average yearly growth of 11 percent. This means that in spite of a population increase of 6 million during the First Five-Year Development Plan, the self-sufficiency coefficient in wheat production increased from 56 percent to 82 percent. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to share the gained experiences from this plan and other achievements in agriculture with all other countries which may find it successful.

Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil): Mr Chairman, we are quite satisfied with the report we have before us. Of course, this being the Council, my delegation for one feels free to comment on it. However, since we have had the opportunity of speaking at length on these issues at the 20th session of the Committee I would restrict myself to highlighting some aspects which seem the most important to us. These are paragraph 11, paragraph 13, and the very first phrase of paragraph 24; but we are quite satisfied, as we said, with the report as a whole and we are prepared to adopt it.

A. Alim FAUZI (Indonesia): Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, first of all the Indonesian delegation would like to express its appreciation to the FAO Secretariat which has prepared very good and comprehensive documents concerning the world food security, especially on the present situation.

Mr Chairman, we are aware that up to now food remains the primary issue for some of the world's population, especially those living in the developing countries. Government leaders and experts have done their best to raise food production to meet the people's demand. However, this effort has not produced encouraging results. We are aware that the developed and developing countries share to a similar extent in the increased food production in 1994, with food production increasing by 2.3 percent in the developed countries

and by 2.6 percent in the developing countries. But in fact, that, while the expansion in the developed countries food production was above the trend growth rate of the 80s and early 90s, that in developing countries compared unfavourably with the long term trends.

There are still many developing countries where food production is insufficient to meet the minimum requirement for the people. Hunger quite often still affects the majority of these countries concerned.

Mr Chairman, regarding the situations above, we agree in principle, on the FAO programmes to assist the LIFDCs in promoting agriculture production. For the first step, due to the FAO's budget constraints and also due to the limited donor countries grant and aid, we support that these programmes be started in 14 LIFDCs, of which nine countries in African region, two countries in Latin American/Caribbean region, and three countries in Asia and Pacific regions, that is, China, Nepal and Papua New Guinea. We do hope that in the long run these programmes will cover all the other LIFDCs.

Mr Chairman we realize that based on the FAO analysis of the impacts of Uruguay Round results on the agriculture sector, which might influence a rise in the international export and import prices of food and agricultural products, we are very much concerned whether such an influence in the short run will cause a decrease in the agricultural production. Therefore, we believe that a programme devoted to increase food and agriculture production which, related to the increasing of farmer's income generating programmes in the LIFDCs, must be carried out as early as possible.

Mr Chairman, with regard to the reports of the 20th session of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome 25 to 28 April this year, the Indonesian delegation would like to join other Members of the Council in adopting the report with suggestion to follow up consequently and consistently all the approved and agreed decisions and recommendations.

Dato' Ahmad Zabri IBRAHIM (Malaysia): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor. My delegation, firstly, would like to commend FAO for providing Member Nations with valuable information on a regular basis on the world food situation and food crops and shortages through its global information and early warning system on food and agriculture.

Touching, firstly, on the current world food situation, my delegation notes with concern at FAO forecasts for global cereal stocks at the close of the country's crop years ending in 1995 to a drop for a second consecutive year. The carryover of stocks at the end of 1994-95 crop years are anticipated to fall to 304 million tons i.e., 4.5 percent below the level of 1993-94 and significantly lower than the level of 1992-93. This is in spite of the recovery in productions in many regions of the world.

Malaysia's own production of cereal and Thaily rice is projected at 2.1 million tonnes. This represents about 65 percent of our consumption. The rest is to be met from import. Our immediate plan is to increase productivity to increasing crop production per hectare while attempts are being made to increase productivity to increasing hectarage per unit of labour. As a net importer of most of its major food commodities to meet its basic food needs and related agro-base industries, my delegation would be very happy if the FAO monitoring of the world food situation eventually covers other food items of importance in greater detail, namely meat and milk. The importance of milk in infant nutrition, thus underscoring food security consideration, cannot be overemphasized, especially for countries in the tropics with lower capacity to produce such food.

As regards the reports of local food shortages, Africa continues to be the continent most severely affected. Currently 15 African countries are facing shortages in food supplies, thus requiring emergency food assistance. The food supply situation remains serious in certain parts of the Near East and Far East. Meanwhile, the food situation is also deteriorating in the regions of Bosnia and Herzegovnia as a result of the difficulties of delivering food aid.

Mr Chairman, with the cooperation of emergency assistance requirements, my delegation would like to suggest that priorities be given based on actual humanitarian consideration. We make this suggestion in view of the impending decreases in availabilities of food aid for emergency and relief purposes by donor countries. Mr Chairman, my delegation notes with interest the report of the World Food Security Committee's 20th

session, which recognized that developing countries should make efforts to invest in agriculture to increase food production while at the same time food insecurity and malnutrition were not only supply problems but also demand problems requiring ultimately poverty elevation and social equity.

Relating my country's experience in these two aspects, my delegation would favour a balanced approach in increasing food security from the supply and demand sides. My country was predominantly an agriculture country three decades ago. The incidence of poverty was highest in the small holders' sector specializing in food or non-food crops.

As a country industrializes a greater proportion of the smallholders find access to higher incomes, some permanently leaving the farms while others treat farming as a part-time occupation.

While the problem of eradicating poverty and social equity has been redressed through this process, thus reducing food insecurity and malnutrition at the household level, it cannot be said to have solved the problems of national food security. The newly acquired incomes are being spent to buy imported food. My country's yearly food import bill has reached nearly US\$3 billion. The investment for food through the smallholders' sector has become more difficult than before, without government support. An alternative to balance the situation will be that involving private sector investment. Thus, based on our experience, it would be necessary to maintain a balance between investing in the supply side with that on the demand side.

With regard to the World Food Security Committee's findings on the effect of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations recently concluded, my country subscribes to the idea that it would stimulate all economic activity leading to increased demand for exports of the developing countries. This could be made possible through a reduction in protectionism and smaller distortion to the world markets. In theory, an increase in the price of food commodities as a result would stimulate production in developing countries, but this does not seem to happen. Instead, we are witnessing gains that are made in this country already with clear comparative advantage. Indeed if this shall be the outcome, food commodities shall no longer be entirely governed by the role of supply and demand on the open market but rather on the few suppliers/many buyers situation. In this respect, my country shares the concern of many net food importing countries that its food import bills cannot be too high as to put its other development programmes at risk.

Mr Chairman, with these comments, my delegation is happy to endorse the report of the Twentieth World Food Security Committee and commends FAO for its report on the current world food situation.

Juraj SOLCANY (Slovakia): Mr Chairman, the Government of the Slovak Republic has characterized its efforts to solve the food security as "the basic strategic goal", taking into account the international consequences of implications on the "Concept of the Agrarian Policy of the Slovak Republic" approved by the Slovak Parliament in July 1993. In this document there is a visible awareness of the danger from the relatively opened market, and indicated are some negative impacts resulting from the process of implementation of conclusions arising from the adoption of the GATT Uruguay Round.

Currently, in relation to the food situation, the sub-region countries, including the Slovak Republic, have to pay permanent attention to the implications of the integration into the European Union. The important document for solving the food situation of the population of the Slovak Republic is the strategic "Concept of Food Security of Slovakia" approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in May 1995. The implementation of the conceptual and adopted conclusions will require multinational cooperation and FAO excellent expert authority and assistance. The solving of problems linked with the process of transition of the economy of the Slovak Republic and the follow-up issues arising from the agri-food sector and the securing of food safety will require analysis and recommendations interconnected with the social and economic questions. The increase of the real income of population consequently increased purchasing power and searched for possibilities to decrease the consumption of the basic food commodities, mostly of animal origin, with an intention to achieve the recommended nutritional allowances.

In spite of the fact that the Slovak Republic has to pay enhanced attention to the problems of its food and agriculture, we are able to secure the nutrition of the population within the range of health recommendations and consumer requirements by the market opened by 10% for the import of temperate zone plant and animal commodities.

Stabilization of the situation and improving the nutrition of the population is the cause for our support of the FAO Technical Committee's conclusions. We see as very topical the FAO technical assistance to the Member Nations, requiring FAO assistance to implement their national programmes of food safety and food sufficiency.

We suppose that the FAO Member Nations, including the Slovak Republic, would very much appreciate the activities of FAO in working out the policy analysis and strategic studies for the period of years 2000 and 2010, linked to implications of the GATT Uruguay Round for the export and distribution of their commodities and for the mutual trade exchange of the agricultural and food products in the world trade. We appreciate the engagement of FAO in cooperation with the World Trade Organization.

We suppose that there is a need for development of the idea of wider range elaboration of consequences of food security on the sustainable agriculture environment, activation of human resources, involvement of women in the rural issues, solving the social infrastructure and exploring the relations and restrictions of ecological and technical factors, and we have the interest to be actively involved.

As for the fate of the nations suffering from hunger and malnutrition, we are not indifferent and we are taking the liberty to express our admiration and appreciation for the effort of the Director-General of FAO to solve this situation with the specific programme for enhancing the food and agricultural production and productivity in the low-income food-deficient countries.

I would like to stress that the issue of food security is not only a quantitative problem. In the case of Central and Eastern European countries, except for these quantitative problems, the food issue has particularly qualitative aspects. Therefore, the Slovak Republic would appreciate it if our sub-region would represent one reasonable part for action.

Kevin O'BRIEN (Australia): Mr Chairman, may we join with other delegations in offering our congratulations and best wishes to you in chairing this Council session.

Australia was pleased to be able to participate in the work of this Committee when it met in April. Once again the debate was highly informed and very constructive. We believe the report is an accurate record of the meeting and we are happy to support its adoption. In doing so, we believe that there are a number of matters that are of interest to this Council which are covered in the report, and we would like to draw attention to four particular matters.

The report itself and indeed the Director-General's comments this morning have expressed concern at the low level of global cereal stocks, a point that is also reflected in the current world food situation document. Although world cereal stocks have fallen, Australia believes that a stocks-to-consumption ratio in the order of 15 to 17 percent remains within comfortable and manageable levels. Indeed the extent to which stocks have fallen is one-twentieth of the current level of world consumption, so that we would have sufficient stocks for around twenty years to cover the current level of shortfall in production should that continue, but we think that there is a more fundamental point.

We believe that the world grain trade has amply demonstrated the capacity to move food around the globe in order to meet shortfalls in individual countries. This capacity should be facilitated as restrictions in trade, in investment, and in services are progressively liberalized. There is no longer the need to maintain high national or international stock levels to ensure that world food security considerations are met. This is not to say that stock levels are not important; it means that we have to continue to update our thinking about the way in which we approach these issues. We welcome the request from the Committee to the Secretariat to re-study the question of what are minimum safe levels for stocks.

Too frequently perhaps we tend to look at questions in aggregate. We tend to look at total production levels, we tend to look at overall world cereal prices, we tend to look at global stocks, but do these considerations take account of the need to look at world food security issues not just globally but at a household, sub-national, national and regional level? We believe that there is also a tendency to concentrate predominantly on

the supply side of the equation. We think that the report importantly notes that food security and malnutrition are not just food supply problems, but are also demand problems requiring ultimate addressing of poverty and social equity considerations.

We would note that world cereal production in 1994 is estimated to be some 3.6 percent above 1993 levels. In our own case, our production and export availability had fallen substantially that year, but we are happy to note that Australia expects to see production return to more normal levels in 1995-96 after the drought-affected period of the last 18 months. Our grains marketing boards are committed to remaining reliable suppliers of grain and are in close contact with their long-term customers.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, we would like to applaud the comprehensive and very honest approach taken by the Committee to identify the root causes of the continuing presence of food insecurity throughout the world, and in particular the debilitating effects of political and social instability. We would note that various forms of civil unrest occur in more than 50 of the countries that are identified in the low-income food deficit group. This greatly accentuates the difficulties that they face in trying to improve their food security situation.

We are also greatly concerned that the number of countries requiring emergency or exceptional assistance in 1995 remains at a high level. In this context we can understand the concerns of some delegates at the declining levels of food aid and the recent substantial reduction in the minimum commitments under the Food Aid Convention. We note that these are minimum contributions and that donor countries may continue their previous practice of providing well in excess of these amounts. For our part, Australia will be pleased to maintain its minimum food aid commitment at 300 000 tonnes per annum of wheat or grain equivalent products, and we may be able to ship more than that.

Thirdly, Mr Chairman, if I could turn to the discussion in the report on the possible impact of the Uruguay Round, Australia believes that the report in this respect presents a balanced account of the views expressed by Member Nations.

We welcome the agreement that the Secretariat should undertake further analyses to assist the impact of implementing the Round outcomes on least-developed and net food-importing countries including the European countries in transition. We fully endorse the statement in the Report where the Committee expressed the potential of the Round to stimulate world economic activity leading to increased demand for the exports of developing countries. We are firmly of the view that trade liberalization and the strengthening of the GATT rules to incorporate agriculture will contribute to enhance the food security situation and will have long-term benefits for the trading prospects of all agricultural producers, especially in the emergent developing country nations. We believe FAO has an important role to play in ensuring that the policies adopted by low-income countries are able to adjust to improve their production potential and to develop sustainable agricultural activity within their nations to improve the food security concerns at a sub-national and household level.

Mr Chairman, Australia strongly agrees with the sentiment contained in various parts of the Report that food security is not to be equated with narrow self-sufficiency considerations in food production but rather should embrace the whole concept of self-reliance. We are pleased that this is a concept that is gaining greater recognition and appreciation because it is only in this way we can attempt to address this very crucial issue in a comprehensive and constructive manner. We would encourage the various Committees of the Organization to apply this concept in a consistent and constructive fashion.

We believe that food security can be helped by many factors, other than those which relate directly to increasing agricultural production. These factors include but are not limited to appropriate economic policies, targeted development assistance, the ability to trade freely, access to adequate educational facilities, acknowledging the very important and fundamental role of women in the development process and enabling people participation in decisions that affect their livelihood, the provision of safe drinking water and adequate post-harvest storage facilities and appropriate infrastructure development.

Mr Chairman, we also have some comments on some other aspects of the Report but we are happy to take those up as you suggested in the context of discussions on the World Food Summit and will leave our points on those until then.

Sra. Ileana Maritza LOPEZ TURCIOS (Honduras): Me uno, Sr. Presidente, a las expresiones de felicitación ya dichas por mis colegas por presidir usted este período de sesiones.

Consideramos conveniente manifestarle nuestra inquietud y preocupación por la constante disminución de los niveles de ayuda alimentaria y por la sustancial reducción que se registra en la asignación mínima en el marco del convenio sobre ayuda alimentaria.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, desea además llamar la atención sobre los esfuerzos que vienen realizando nuestros países en relación con la inversión en la agricultura y en la opción de políticas apropiadas. Estos aspectos, a nuestro juicio, tienen una importancia fundamental para el aumento de la producción de alimentos y, en consecuencia, para la inseguridad alimentaria.

Estimo oportuno resaltar al respecto, sin embargo, que la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición son problemas íntimamente asociados, además que son el suministro de alimentos también, con la demanda de estos y la mitigación de la pobreza y la equidad social.

Estamos convencidos de que el tema de la inseguridad alimentaria debe abordarse, sobre todo, mediante la mejora del acceso de los hogares a los alimentos, compartiendo la pobreza y generando empleos y oportunidades de ingreso. A este respecto los países del Istmo Centroamericano están seriamente comprometidos con la promoción del adelanto social y económico de la mujer rural en el marco de los planes de desarrollo humano.

Los países del Istmo centroamericano reiteran su interés por la puesta en marcha del programa especial sobre la producción de alimentos en apoyo de la seguridad alimentaria, y expresar su pleno apoyo a este Programa.

En cuanto al informe del 20° período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria recogido en el documento CL 108/10, mi delegación lo aprueba. Permítame, también, referirme al Proyecto de Declaración de Política y Plan de Acción para la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y expresarle que opinamos, en forma general, que el documento CFS:95/4, discutido durante el 108° período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, constituye una buena base, ya que estimamos que son puntos de partida válidos.

Supote DECHATES (Thailand): Once again, my delegation is very pleased to see you chairing this Council. My congratulations also extend to the officers in the bureau. Following your instruction on this agenda item, I will not comment on a World Food Summit but at the later stage.

The Report of the 20th Session of the Committee on World Food Security is generally endorsed by my delegation, and while we share the view as indicated in paragraph 16 of the document CL 108/10, due to the impact of the Uruguay Round, there are projected short-term negative effects of the net food-importing developing countries, particularly the higher world food prices and the increased food import bills. However, we feel that several countries could adjust their food policy by focusing more on increasing food production in order to avoid the increase of food import bills.

With regard to the current world food situation, my delegation is absolutely in agreement with paragraph 4 of document CL 108/2. As indicated in that paragraph, Thailand is one of the major cereal-producing countries especially for rice. May I report to you that paddy production in Thailand for the year 1994-95 is forecasted at 20 million metric tonnes or 2 million metric tonnes higher than the previous year. We also anticipate that in 1995 we could increase our export of rice from 4.2 million metric tonnes to 4.5 million metric tonnes. We hope this availability of rice in the world market could secure the demand of rice importing countries.

Joseph K. MHELLA (Tanzania): Thank you Mr Chairman for giving my delegation the floor. We are happy to see you once again in the Chair and we are impressed by the manner by which you are guiding the deliberations of this Council.

Mr Chairman, my delegation participated in the 20th Session of the Committee on World Food Security last April and we are fully supportive of the Report. We, however, have to emphasize one point in regard to sustainable agriculture and food security in connection with the launching of the Special Programme on Food

Production for Security in Low-Income Food-Security Countries. This is in reference to paragraph 27 of the Report. My delegation supports the stand for equal attention to be given to both low potential or poor resource areas and high potential areas. This is shared by many African countries, including Kenya and Ethiopia to mention just a few. It is through giving attention to both areas that we can better improve world food security.

Regarding the food situation in Tanzania, Mr Chairman, I would like to inform the Council that Tanzania expects to get much better harvest this year than last year. The country has had good rains except in a few areas where either much of the rain came a little bit late or excessive rain in some areas destroyed the crop. On average, however, the country will harvest enough for local consumption.

The food security situation, however, in the areas surrounding the Rwanda/Burundi refugee camps is still causing concern to Tanzania. In these areas there is a lucrative trade in food between refugees and the local population. Because of the high prices there is danger for the local population selling much of their food harvests unless refugees continue to be supplied with adequate food supplies by the international community. Through this Council, Mr Chairman, Tanzania requests the international community to continue making available adequate food supplies to the refugees numbering more than 600 000 people.

Ms Lynnett M. WAGNER (United States of America): The United States finds the Committee on World Security Reports to be well-balanced in its portrayal of the world food situation; particularly we appreciate the Report's recommendations, the FAO monitor and the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreement on low-impact countries. We must remember that all major studies of the potential impact of the Uruguay Round point to gains in income for developing countries as a whole. As far as food aid is concerned the United States has also provided food at levels far higher than our pledges under the Food Aid Conventions, especially with regard to emergency. The Clinton Administration request for 1996 will allow the United States to significantly exceed our pledge again next year. The United States will also focus a higher percentage of its food aid on food deficit countries and that has supported efforts by the World Food Programme to do the same. We note that civil unrest is a major cause of food insecurity that must be taken into account in any FAO formulation. We suggest continuing FAO attention, increasing food output in high potential areas, for the present programme emphasis may yield the best results on the grounds of equity, environment and economics. The United States will urge programme attention to resource poor areas on the grounds of equity and because these areas are that way in part due to previous neglect.

Given the Director-General's statement this morning anticipating a ten percent drop in cereal stocks, we would urge all member countries to review their own policies and programmes in this area. We agree with the note of caution about the current world food situation and urge FAO to monitor developments closely, as the United States will. We urge adoption of the Committee on World Food Security report, Council document CL 108/10.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): At the outset, I would like to stress that my country endorses the conclusions of the last session of the Committee on Food Security. We consider its report one of the most important reports ever adopted since it is balanced and focuses on the most salient points. We thank His Excellency Mr Jacques Laureau for the efforts he has made which have led to such impressive results. In my intervention I will focus on an extremely important point for my country and for many developing countries, in particular in Africa and in the Near East. Paragraphs 16 to 22 of the report are vitally important for them regarding the projected short-term negative effects of the agreement on agriculture in the Uruguay Round on the net food importing developing countries and the least-developed countries. I would like to mention in particular the difficulties that these countries will face in the short term in funding their normal imports of staple food. The Committee has agreed to identify ways and means of implementing this decision with a view to setting up a transparent regime to avoid such an effect before the countries of those two groups face extreme difficulties in financing their food imports whose bills will increase because of the Uruguay Round.

The role of FAO was stressed in the implementation of such a decision in coordination with the Agricultural Committee of WTO. It was also stressed that the Organization should continue to provide financial assistance to its Member in this field. The Committee has requested that the Organization provide assistance in

identifying the net food importing countries which would be eligible to receive assistance and aid with a view to reducing the effects of the Uruguay Round. It was also stressed that the Secretariat should carry out further analysis to assess the impact of the Uruguay Round on the least-developed countries as well as the net food importer developing countries and the European countries suffering from the transitional period.

My Delegation requests that the Council's Report clearly endorse those recommendations which are of extreme importance to members of the Council and of the Organization as a whole.

Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela): Gracias señor Presidente. Hemos analizado con atención el Informe de la FAO sobre la situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, el cual queremos agradecer de manera muy especial. Al respecto nos complace constatar que el aumento en la producción mundial de alimentos superó el crecimiento demográfico mundial. En consecuencia, la disponibilidad per cápita de alimentos ha aumentado en términos globales y seguirá manteniendo esta tendencia. Pero a pesar de esto, en los países en desarrollo persisten significativos problemas de desnutrición y hambre, y, en la región de América Latina y El Caribe, la pobreza se ha incrementado hasta alcanzar niveles realmente insostenibles.

Sin embargo, señor Presidente, nos alienta el pequeño aumento en la producción de alimentos que se registró en nuestra región y el aporte de este aumento a la producción mundial, aun cuando el aumento de alimentos básicos por habitante fue marginal. Vale la pena subrayar que los países en desarrollo continúan enfrentando dificultades para colocar la producción en los mercados internacionales, y que, como consecuencia del aumento de los precios internacionales, se han encarecido los alimentos que importamos, afectando o dificultando la posibilidad de adquisición por parte de un amplio margen de la población.

Mi Delegación considera que tanto el volumen de la producción como la distribución de alimentos de base, deben mejorarse para satisfacer las necesidades de la población y para evitar que el crecimiento supere la producción de alimentos.

Quiero enfatizar, que en la actual coyuntura, la región de América Latina y el Caribe necesita de especial atención por parte de la FAO en lo que a cooperación y asesoramiento técnico se refiere.

Quiero simplemente señalar ahora algunas medidas que ha adoptado mi Gobierno en materia agrícola y que hemos incluido en el 9º Plan de la Nación, que acabamos de poner en práctica, y cuyo objetivo, entre otros, es el logro de la seguridad alimentaria, el cual contempla el aprovechamiento racional de los recursos para atender de manera prioritaria las necesidades alimentarias de la población venezolana. Estamos adelantando también, con la ayuda y la colaboración de la FAO, la Ley Orgánica de Desarrollo Agrícola y Seguridad Alimentaria, la cual coadyuvará al logro de tal objetivo.

Para mi país es urgente alcanzar niveles adecuados de seguridad alimentaria, a fin de disminuir los déficits nutricionales de los sectores más pobres de la población. Y, por ello, en el 9º Plan de la Nación se expone que, la distribución y abastecimiento de alimentos requieren de un conjunto de programas aptos para mejorar la comercialización a nivel urbano y rural, por lo que se hace indispensable la modernización del comercio detallista, la reorganización y creación de mercados mayoristas y un plan de ordenación espacial de los puntos de venta relacionados con la distribución de alimentos.

Estamos promoviendo también, cadenas agroalimentarias, apoyando preferentemente a la pequeña y mediana industria agroalimentaria y de procesamiento de productos agrícolas y pesqueros, mediante la acción concertada del estado para el financiamiento de las deudas, la recuperación y mantenimiento de equipos y las mejoras de los factores de competitividad. Igualmente se busca establecer y consolidar el sistema de formación de precios que hagan rentables la producción primaria y reduzcan los niveles de incertidumbre que sobre los precios de los productos agrícolas tengan los precios internacionales. Ello se alcanzará mediante la concertación entre productores e industriales, la adopción del sistema andino de franjas de precios, y el funcionamiento de la bolsa de productos agrícolas.

Estamos plenamente convencidos, señor Presidente, de que la FAO debe desempeñar un papel fundamental al apoyar y colaborar con las políticas y proyectos que estamos adelantando, destinados a la optimización del sector agropecuario, mediante estrategias productivas que nos permitirán satisfacer la seguridad alimentaria y

alcanzar una agricultura sustentable. Pero es necesario también, dar prioridad y apoyo al papel de la FAO como organismo asesor sobre políticas y facilitador de cooperación técnica.

La FAO tiene un importante mandato para promocionar el desarrollo del sector agrícola; por ello, debe continuar con la preparación de programas de información sobre la economía, la realización de asesorías sobre planificación, y la asistencia técnica y, dentro de éstos, dar mayor impulso a los programas de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, pues serán una ayuda importante para lograr tales objetivos.

Señor Presidente, para finalizar, y refiriéndome al informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, que recogen los planteamientos y los elementos que deberán estar incluidos tanto en la Declaración como en el Plan de Acción, expreso la aprobación y conformidad de mi Delegación con dicho Informe. Sin embargo, al tratar el Tema 4, volveremos a detenernos en los elementos presentes en el Informe y, comentaremos con mayor detalle los aspectos de contenido, de políticas y de organización de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación. Muchísimas gracias señor Presidente.

Pedro MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile): Gracias señor Presidente. Deseo hacer unos breves comentarios sobre los documentos 108/2 y 108/10 que tenemos para decisión y que se refieren al informe de la 20ª Sesión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y a la situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo.

En las reuniones respectivas del referido Comité, tuvimos la oportunidad de hacer referencia específica respecto de los análisis presentados por la Secretaría, de manera que no lo repetiremos en esta oportunidad, ya que se encuentran plenamente reflejados en el Informe.

En términos generales quisiéramos, sin embargo, destacar algunos hechos que merecen una atención especial.

En primer lugar, resulta alentador que las estimaciones de la producción de alimentos para 1994, muestren un nuevo crecimiento a nivel mundial de 2,5 por ciento y que éste sea superior al crecimiento demográfico mundial. He de resaltar, asimismo, la contribución que han hecho, casi en términos similares, tanto los países desarrollados como en vías de desarrollo, a pesar de las variaciones que registran las diferentes regiones. En lo que respecta a América Latina y el Caribe el aumento de un 4,7 por ciento de aumento en la producción de alimentos, es ciertamente una contribución importante de la región en la producción mundial.

Desde el punto de vista de la producción por habitante de alimentos básicos, es igualmente importante el aumento registrado en 1994, a 382 Kg. (equivalente en gramos, de acuerdo con lo que señala el Informe), a pesar de que es inferior al alcanzado en la década anterior, comienzos de los noventa. En el contexto de los países en vías de desarrollo nos preocupa la situación de los países de África que corresponde apenas a la mitad del nivel medio en las regiones de los países en desarrollo. Es más preocupación aún por la grave escasez de alimentos en muchos de estos países, por el aumento de las situaciones de emergencia que afectan a la población civil como consecuencia de condiciones climáticas adversas y de conflictos sociales.

Es por ello Sr. Presidente, que nos permitimos insistir en la necesidad de concentrar los esfuerzos en la recuperación de la capacidad productiva de los países de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos a fin de poder garantizar la seguridad alimentaria. En tal sentido consideramos muy importante el Programa Especial sobre Producción de Alimentos en Apoyo de la Seguridad Alimentaria en estos países, que el Sr. Director General ha puesto en ejecución y esperamos que en la próxima reunión del Comité podamos otorgarle la debida atención a este importante programa de la FAO.

Un segundo aspecto que quisiéramos comentar es la estrecha relación entre la pobreza, la seguridad alimentaria y la sostenibilidad del medio ambiente.

Es un aspecto que ha sido ampliamente comentado y que se refleja tanto en las intervenciones de los distinguidos representantes como en el Informe del Comité, razón por la cual no haré mayor referencia a ello.

Un tercer elemento que quisiera destacar es el impacto que tendrán los acuerdos alcanzados en la Ronda Uruguay, tanto en la producción como en el comercio agrícola. Al respecto compartimos plenamente lo señalado en el Informe en cuanto a los resultados positivos que tendrían en la estimulación de la actividad económica mundial. Nuestro país es de la opinión de que las disposiciones del acuerdo de la Ronda Uruguay,

del GATT, deben ser finalmente aplicadas, incluyendo la decisión de la Ronda Uruguay sobre medidas relativas a los posibles efectos negativos del Programa de Reforma en los países menos adelantados y en los países en desarrollo, importadores de alimentos. La existencia técnica que pueda proporcionar la FAO a estos países para enfrentar debidamente las exigencias de este nuevo orden comercial, la consideramos de la mayor pertinencia. Asimismo, estimamos muy necesario que la Secretaría evalúe en forma regular los efectos de la aplicación de la Ronda Uruguay en los países menos adelantados y en los países en desarrollo importadores netos de alimentos, tal como se señala en el párrafo 22 del documento CL 08/10.

Quiero aprovechar la oportunidad para señalar que mi país considera que la apertura del sector agrícola al comercio internacional constituye un eje central del proceso de transformación y modernización, tanto de la propia agricultura como de la economía del país en su conjunto. Pensamos, eso sí, que el mayor daño que se puede causar a la producción doméstica es aceptar que ingresen al mercado local productos agrícolas con precios artificiales y/o transitoriamente deprimidos, como consecuencia de la distorsión de los mercados internacionales y/o de los subsidios encubiertos arancelarios.

En relación a los productos sensibles o estratégicos nos hemos propuesto una transición gradual utilizando los mecanismos previstos en los acuerdos internacionales, cautelando los intereses de los medianos y pequeños productores.

Por otra parte, a nivel nacional, hemos tomado una serie de medidas para mejorar las condiciones de acceso de los productores nacionales a los insumos y a los bienes de capital necesarios para la producción. En esta política, nuestro compromiso es apoyar todas las medidas de modernización y de apertura de nuevos mercados que el sector privado esté dispuesto a desarrollar en el antiguo rol que le compete en este ámbito.

Una particular atención otorgamos a la política fiscal, monetaria, cambiaria y de comercio exterior, y si bien no en todas ellas podemos disponer de los mismos instrumentos, no podemos negar los efectos directos que tienen en la producción nacional. Por ejemplo, no siempre es posible compensar con aumentos de productividad una baja de los precios de la competencia o de los costos de producción de los productos sustituibles. Una revaluación o devaluación de nuestra moneda tiene incidencia directa en la producción local, cuando ésta está abierta a la competencia del comercio internacional, con mercados cada vez más abiertos y competitivos.

Pensamos que para la seguridad alimentaria mundial y de cada país, estos aspectos son altamente relevantes.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, junto con expresar nuestro acuerdo a los informes que se nos presentan, deseo apoyar la propuesta de agenda que se presenta para la próxima reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, en el entendido de que el próximo Comité deberá destinar una parte importante de su tiempo a los preparativos de la próxima Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. Gracias Sr. Presidente.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Entendemos por necesario, Sr. Presidente, se nos permita profundizar en aspectos que, dentro del amplio abanico de temas, están contemplados de una forma u otra dentro del ámbito de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, como tarea priorizada y promotora de nuestra Organización, precisando que por la calidad del informe y el rico debate dentro de las sesiones del Comité, nuestra delegación manifiesta su conformidad y apoyo a este informe.

Transcurre, Sr. Presidente, este 108° período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO precisamente en mitad de 1995, y el año de 1995 es un año de grandes conmemoraciones dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y su más alta instancia, la ONU, y particularmente nuestra Organización FAO. Bajo las cenizas del holocausto de la II Guerra Mundial, surgió la idea de la creación de la FAO, bajo la concepción de la cooperación internacional en la búsqueda de soluciones para contrarrestar el lacerante flagelo del hambre. Cuántos recuerdos, dentro de otras y esta misma sala de reuniones, testigo de tantos debates y búsqueda de soluciones con la participación de todos los países de las más recónditas regiones del mundo, bajo la égida de la FAO. Sería interesante preguntarse, al igual que nosotros hemos examinado aquellos acontecimientos de hace 50 años con ojos escrutadores y analíticos, cómo contemplarán 50 años después nuestras actuaciones las futuras generaciones.

Aquí surge otra interrogante. En 1945 existió una voluntad política ante una realidad incuestionable para la creación de la FAO. Con relación a su seguridad alimentaria, en 1995 la situación del mundo no ha cambiado; por el contrario, se ha agravado. Sólo un ejemplo para no remitirnos a las propias cifras de la FAO. El mundo ha crecido y sigue creciendo. ¿Qué se ha hecho de esa voluntad política?

Antes de otras consideraciones, Sr. Presidente, permítame algunas reflexiones nacidas, naturalmente, de nuestra procedencia. Somos por condición e identidad, producto de un mundo en desarrollo, latinoamericano y del Caribe, razón por la que el actual estado de pobreza y alimentación de nuestra región la situamos en el centro de nuestras preocupaciones. Además de esa primordial realidad, como estado fundador nos unen a la FAO lazos de plena identidad y cooperación que se han ido fortaleciendo en pleno reconocimiento de sus funciones, además de nuestro convencimiento de la necesidad de los organismos internacionales.

Dentro de un mundo controvertido y hegemónico que ha roto su equilibrio, la política multilateral representa el ejercicio adecuado, dentro de su representatividad y amplio debate democrático y el ámbito apropiado para el análisis reposado y transparente de la problemática del mundo. De todo lo anterior expresado, Sr. Presidente, se desprende, como piedra angular del problema, que su índole es política, y, sobre todo, constituye un problema de voluntad política.

Sr. Presidente, planteamos y abogamos por el fortalecimiento de la FAO y de su actual dirección, por estar convencidos de la necesidad de la cooperación internacional, y por ser la FAO el órgano necesario e insustituible para llevar a cabo la ayuda a los países en vías de desarrollo, para mitigar el hambre y la pobreza en nuestros pueblos. Bajo esta realidad, los países en desarrollo tratan de buscar soluciones a su problemática las cuales no son efectivas sin la decidida cooperación internacional. ¿Quién puede, responsablemente, impedir este reclamo?

La historia de nuestra situación es tan vieja como conocida, por eso no vamos a remitirnos a sus orígenes coloniales, raíces de estas desproporciones; vamos a situarnos en esta hora, en este momento, a las puertas de un nuevo siglo. ¿Pueden los pueblos en desarrollo sacudirse el polvo de su pobreza e iniciar un camino de recuperación hacia un legítimo desarrollo sin elevar su nivel científico-técnico, sin el incremento de su producción y productividad, sin contar con el intercambio tecnológico sin la capacidad y la igualdad y sin la capacitación en igualdad de condiciones de la mujer? ¿Pueden pretender los pueblos que tratan de elevar sus niveles de desarrollo, lograr sus objetivos sin la cooperación internacional y sin la ayuda multilateral? A esta necesaria cooperación dentro de la política multilateral se le suman a nuestros pueblos tener que sostener sobre sus hombros la carga de un sistema de intercambio desigual, el proteccionismo y una abultada deuda externa, reiterando en casos específicos como el de nuestro país, la utilización de los alimentos como arma política, que además de señalarla la denunciaremos una vez más como utilización impropia, injusta e inhumana.

No se puede condenar a un pueblo al hambre por el único delito de no pensar igual que aquellos que nos bloquean, recrudesciendo medidas que han sido condenadas internacionalmente.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, entendemos que si antes existió una década perdida, a ésta del 90 le puede corresponder el calificativo de la década crítica.

Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland): I wish to thank you for giving me the floor. My delegation is particularly appreciative of this opportunity to comment because, in spite of full membership of the Committee on World Food Security, we were not able to attend the 20th Session in April 1995. For this reason I wish to commend the Secretariat in preparing a very informative document which has been very enlightening indeed on the subject under discussion.

Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to fully agree with the analysis contained in paragraph 13 on document CL 108/2 and CL 108/10, both of which confirm the serious localized drought in Southern Africa, including my own country of Swaziland.

To this end, Mr Chairman, I wish to thank both FAO and the WFP for fielding a joint mission earlier this year to assess the magnitude of the drought in my country. It is my delegation's hope that friendly countries as well as the WFP will donate generously food aid items to my country where currently approximately 90 000 people are facing severe water shortages in addition to food shortages.

My delegation wishes further to submit that some parts of sub-Saharan Africa are not only facing food shortages but water shortages because of high recurrence of drought. This situation threatens the very foundation of agriculture in developing countries which largely depend on natural rainfall.

My delegation wishes to commend the FAO for continuing to assist member countries to develop policies and programmes that will help transform agriculture through intensive technologies such as those relevant to small-scale irrigation development.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to endorse the report contained in document CL 108/10. I thank you.

Nahi SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to applaud the efforts made in preparing the documents at present before us: CL 108/10 and CL 108/2. I think we've had a very rich debate which has expanded the information available in these documents. However, I would like to stress one aspect which I believe has not been fully or sufficiently covered in these two documents. I refer to the need to strengthen the amount of food being made available by cutting down the losses which occur during production, transport, and prior to consumption - post-harvest losses, for example. We all realize what an important thing this is because the amount of these losses could represent 20 percent of the total production level in some countries, especially in developing countries.

Now, Mr Chairman, it is clear that the measures that have been taken to cut down these losses are of clear economic advantage. We believe that it is necessary to stipulate explicitly in the report that there is this need to further reduce these losses in food commodities. We believe that FAO should assist developing countries and enable them to prepare their own specific strategies which would help reduce these losses. This would mean that it would be, thus, possible to increase the amount of food available in the world at large. Thank you Mr Chairman.

CONGMENG LIU (China) (Original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, the Chinese Delegation has carefully gone through the documents CL 108/2 and CL 108/10. Now I would like to share some of our views on this item on the current world food situation.

Mr Chairman, first of all, the world food production in 1994 showed an increase by 2.5 percent, which was above the level. The Chinese Delegation is of the view that, in general, the world food and agriculture situation in 1994 was developing along the direction all of us had been wishing for with agriculture growth higher than population growth. Per capita grain production was much higher as compared with 1993. It is our hope that this trend will continue.

On the other hand, we don't think we should be too optimistic about the current world food situation since the

agricultural growth of 1994 was to a large extent related to global economic recovery and favourable weather conditions. World grain production has been suffering continuous decline since the 1991 record of 2 145 billion tons, and the production of 1994 was merely a recovery during the overall trend of decline. In terms of per capita grain production, the 382 kilograms of 1994 was still 23 kilograms less than the 405 kilograms of 1990. Therefore, the world food security in 1994 was deteriorating and the level of global cereal stocks versus consumption had come to the minimum level necessary to ensure world food security.

Mr Chairman, secondly we believe that there still exist many problems in the area of world food and agriculture which are of concern. Firstly, the development in different regions was imbalanced, agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa was well below the world average; the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries experienced a negative growth.

Secondly, 5 percent decrease in wheat production and strong demand of import by developing countries had led to high price of wheat as well as of rice and corn. The net grain importing developing countries have to pay more foreign currencies to buy grain, which consequently affected their food security situation. Estimates showed that in 1994 over 30 countries faced the problem of food shortages. Besides, food aid was also on the decrease. Food aid in 1994 was 9.8 million tonnes, far below the level of 13.3 million tonnes in 1993.

Therefore, we appeal to all governments and the international community to work together and put the issue of food security and grain production increase at the top of their agenda in their national economic development. Concrete measures meanwhile should be taken to increase grain production. We also wish that developed countries and the international community would take active measures to assist low-income and food-deficit countries by offering more food aid.

Mr Chairman, please allow me to take this opportunity to brief the Council on China's agricultural production in 1994.

Despite serious natural calamities, China's grain and cotton production in 1994 achieved good harvests together with a rising production of meat, fish, poultry and vegetables. Township enterprises continued to expand rapidly and farmers' income gained steady increases.

Total production of grain in 1994 reached 444.5 million tonnes; that of cotton, 4.25 million tonnes; of oil-bearing crops, 19.84 million tonnes; of meat, 43 million tonnes; and of aquatic products, 20.98 million tonnes.

Sales revenue of township enterprises reached 3 500 billion Chinese yuan, increasing by 35 percent. Farmers' per capita income reached 1 220 yuans, an increase of 5 percent taking into consideration the factor of inflation.

The development of rural economy has supported the growth of our national economy as a whole and we have basically met the needs in national economic development and people's livelihood. In 1995, the Chinese Government has taken a series of measures aimed at enhancing agricultural development. We are striving to obtain a grain production of 454.5 million tonnes, strike a balance between grain supply and demand, and achieve grain self-sufficiency so that China will be able to feed its own population.

We endorse the work done by the Secretariat and also the analysis on the food situation in the world.

Toivo PALM (Estonia): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I would like to make a rather short remark about the situation in Estonia. Estonia is presently in the midst of a process to restructure and reform the agricultural sector and the economy in society at large. The collapse of the Soviet Union dramatically altered our production structure and initiated a rapid decollectivization and the privatization of farms. The agricultural sector is adjusting to these fundamental changes, and currently two generations of farmers are learning their new principles and skills of market economy and free enterprise.

Developments in the agricultural sector are closely linked to overall national and rural development. Rural unemployment is a growing concern with bleak future prospects in agriculture, and the younger generation does not find agricultural jobs attractive and seeks employment in the urban areas. Due to this, land reform has highest priority; the reform agenda in Estonia will be made transparent and reform programme and meet there very good communication with farmers.

In spite of this, we are a rather high percentage of rural inhabitants which have stayed unemployed but potentially are able to produce agricultural production, traditionally dairy production and meat. That's why we are very happy if FAO will find a possibility to discuss some programmes of marketing and, maybe, discussing programmes about devising new marketing systems. It will maybe ease to some extent of food insecurity, and also it will ease the situation with rural development in transition countries, not only in Estonia but rather big numbers of post-socialistic countries where will be also expected some food insecurity if we don't find the new markets for our production.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Secretariat has received the following statement with request for insertion in the verbatim records under item 5 of the agenda.

John NASASIRA (Uganda): Uganda is pleased to participate in the 108th Session of the Council and contribute to the review of problems associated with the Global Food Situation and related matters.

As you are aware, Mr Chairman, man's struggle for existence has led to the exploitation of the environment for food and agricultural production; increased agricultural production associated with use of agro-chemical and mineral fertilizers is likely to exacerbate the already severe global environment problems. Yet the world is faced with a challenge of feeding its ever increasing population where about 94 percent of the total increment in population will be in developing countries.

This phenomenon has far reaching implications. FAO projects that by 2010 as many as 730 million people in developing countries will suffer from undernutrition against 800 million today. In sub-Saharan Africa 300 million people will be affected.

Mr Chairman, this situation needs a concerted effort and will be alleviated fully by doubling food production to 4 percent and halving population growth by 1.5 percent. The capacity of the world, especially the developing countries to meet its food requirements will depend on both endogenous and exogenous factors to the agricultural sector. These include peace and security, conducive governance, gender household participation in decision-making, infrastructure, improved research and technology, increased market access, rural financing, appropriate policies and implementation capacities.

There is wide spread evidence of environment degradation in the tropics and sub-tropics in general. This is also true with developing countries. So it is especially important for countries in these regions to lay strategies and policies that will ensure effective environment conservation e.g. afforestation, soil erosion control, judicious use of swamps, etc. because lack of action on their part will affect global food supply in the long run. Dumping of toxic wastes, especially to some sub-Saharan African countries, poses yet another threat to environment. Effects of such action have repercussions to our effort to develop sustainable food security.

Mr Chairman, the role of women and youths in the agricultural economy as key players is well known. Unfortunately these groups of producers have been overburdened and marginalized in terms of resources and market benefits of their own sweat to the detriment of fostering agricultural production. This is more so in the developing countries. It is therefore imperative for these countries to put in place policies designed to empower the women and youths through income-generating activities and to ensure accessibility to land, credit, education and extension services since they are the primary producers of food.

Improved terms of trade between nations and the Uruguay Round Agreement which was meant to stimulate trade should also play a major role in food security and agricultural trade. The Agreement should be effectively implemented in favour of developing countries.

Mr Chairman, in the whole world 260 million hectares of land are irrigated. For developing countries as a whole, rainfed land with crop potential is estimated at 2 570 million hectares compared to 750 million hectares presently cultivated. In Uganda only 3 percent of the land is irrigated. There is therefore considerable potential to expand agricultural production by exploiting irrigation. However, the costs involved are prohibitive for most developing countries. Concerted effort to devise cheaper means of utilizing this technology could then be implemented in developing countries as packages.

Mr Chairman, if food crop production has to be increased, both the area under crops, yield and level of mechanization should be raised. This is especially so in the developing countries. But due to the high costs involved, the use of draught animals (cattle, donkeys, etc.) as a source of power presents itself as an appropriate affordable and sustainable technology. This would also go a long way in reducing farm drudgery on a wide range of farm operations especially for women.

Post-harvest losses contribute a substantial threat to food security since they account for about 10 percent -40 percent, in most developing countries. This is due to storage pests e.g. the larger grain borer, etc. Therefore adequate measures should be taken to reduce these losses by grading, packaging and fumigation. Transportation across countries should be well coordinated so as to control or avoid introduction of pest through food grain.

Mr Chairman, in the case of Uganda, agriculture is and will for sometime remain the mainstay of the Ugandan economy as it accounts for 51 percent of GDP, 91 percent of exports and employs over 80 percent of the employed household population and also provides for agrobased industry and processing.

Fortunately, the agricultural sector has been growing at an average rate of 4.4 percent per annum (1991-93), the food crop sector accounting for much of this growth.

This has been, due to the overall policy of the Government, which is to marshal political and social forces towards economic development at grassroots level by pursuing a policy to build an independent, integrated and self-sustaining national economy through diversification of agricultural production, import substitution and industry and agriculture, modernization of the agricultural sector, construction of basic industries and the development of appropriate technology for Uganda. Priority is also given to the maximum development of Human resources.

Within this framework Mr Chairman, the general sectoral objectives of the Government are to guarantee national security, increase food production for self sufficiency, ensure food security and adequate nutrition. Agricultural exports will be liberalized, diversified and increased.

The Government of Uganda has also set up a reform policy conducive to investment in agricultural food and agrobased industries. A dynamic private sector has emerged as a result of deregulation of the economy.

This, coupled with decentralization of administrative planning and decision-making functions at the grassroots level, will stimulate food production for the population in the longrun.

Mr Chairman, despite the abundant resources for food production Uganda is endowed with the attainability of food security is not without challenges and these are:

Over reliance on rainfed agriculture;

Necessity for new and appropriate technology;

Low investment in the agricultural sector by both public and private;

Ensuring security and peace in the country and the region as a whole;

Problems associated with marketing, e.g. low value and highly perishable products;

Capacity building to manage population growth, food production and environmental, issues;

Aquatic resource management;

Biodiversity management and conservation issues;

Land tenure systems;

Desertification;

Health - AIDS affects the most productive sectors of the population; Overuse of Pesticides and Fertilizers; Gender-related issues; Rural poverty;

Land degradation due to soil erosion, deforestation, etc; The need for irrigation and drainage; Post-harvest losses.

To address all these issues, Mr Chairman, adequate approaches have been adopted by government to ensure that food security is maintained in the short and long run.

These are:

Enhancement of early warning systems;

Nutritional surveillance to improve the nutritional status of all people; Deregulation of food markets to ensure equitable distribution and access to food; Improvement of infrastructure; Improvement of human resources; Ensure food security at household level;

Provide political will and commitment to facilitate the translation of the food policy into action programmes;

Intensification of adaptive research;

Empowering producers with appropriate technology;

Ensure peace and security;

Arresting desertification by encouraging agro-forestry and designing energy saving stores; Intensification of food and health strategies, e.g. control of HIV/AIDS nationwide; Land tenure strategies to access land to the disadvantaged groups, e.g. women; Measures to address rural poverty. This entails empowering people to generate income; Conserving and management of biodiversity.

Ms Lynnett M. WAGNER (United States of America): The US embargo referred to by the delegate from Cuba is not the blockade that the Cuban Government describes it to be. In fact, embargo regulations apply only to persons or entities who are subject to US jurisdiction.

The United States does not seek to interfere with the free market term trade relations of third countries. **The** regime's claim that US policy is depriving the Cuban people of food and medicine is unfounded and politically motivated.

The real issue, the one that the Cuban Government does not want to face, is that Cuba's economic **systems** and policies have stunted individual initiatives and economic growth.

EL PRESIDENTE: No deseo abrir el debate sobre este tema. Me ha solicitado la palabra el delegado de Cuba y espero que sea la última intervención al respecto.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Precisamente, Sr. Presidente, yo no menté países, pero se sienten aludidos. Yo solamente quiero preguntar, no para remitirme a hechos oficiales sino éticos, y no haciendo referencia a las anteriores, sino tan sólo a la última reunión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, donde en una votación histórica sólo con dos votos en contra, se condenó el hecho de un bloqueo que dura más de 30 años a un pequeño país que no está en guerra, que es miembro de este Consejo y fundador de la Organización. Sr. Presidente es la lucha de Goliat contra David.

Las ideas no se matan por hambre y las diferencias **se** analizan en una mesa de negociaciones, **en** igualdad **de** condiciones. Lógicamente, Sr. Presidente, no entran en juego los principios.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Consejo ha tomado nota de la posición de ambas delegaciones.

Como no veo a ningún miembro del Consejo que desea hacer uso de la palabra, me voy a permitir dársela a algunos observadores.

Gilbert DOH-DJANHOUNDY (Observateur de la Côte d'Ivoire): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellence, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Prenant la parole pour la première fois je voudrais, au nom de la délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire, joindre ma voix à celle des orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter les nouveaux membres du Conseil de la FAO pour leur brillante élection. C'est avec un grand plaisir que nous vous retrouvons, Monsieur López Portillo, Président du Conseil indépendant. Vous avez toujours su diriger nos travaux avec compétence, brio, efficacité et diplomatie. La délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire vous assure, comme par le passé, de sa sincère collaboration et de son ferme soutien.

Nous saisissons cette opportunité pour remercier et exprimer nos vives félicitations à Mr. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, pour son importante déclaration aussi bien sur les activités que sur le rôle primordial que ne cesse de jouer l'Organisation pour s'acquitter de sa mission, qui est de mettre un terme au triple fléau de la faim, de la misère et de la malnutrition et assurer la nourriture à tous les hommes et à toutes les femmes du monde entier. Cette déclaration a identifié et mis en exergue les domaines prioritaires dans

lesquels la communauté internationale doit prendre des mesures énergiques pour faire avancer la noble mission de notre Organisation.

Aussi ma délégation voudrait-elle s'associer à celles qui l'ont précédée pour appuyer la proposition selon laquelle cette déclaration doit être considérée comme un document de travail de notre Organisation et de notre Conseil.

La délégation ivoirienne reconnaît, avec les délégations qui l'ont précédée, que la FAO reste à l'avant-garde du combat que les Nations Unies mènent contre la faim et la misère et qu'elle s'acquitte de cette mission avec efficacité.

Ma délégation se félicite de la qualité des documents élaborés par le Secrétariat général de la FAO, notamment les documents CL 108/2 et CL 108/10 relatifs à la situation mondiale de l'alimentation d'une part et au rapport du Comité de la sécurité mondiale alimentaire d'autre part. Ces documents font une analyse claire et objective de la situation mondiale alimentaire, tout en exposant les difficultés rencontrées et les grandes orientations de l'action de la FAO dans ce domaine prioritaire. En effet, la situation mondiale de l'alimentation décrite dans ce document nous donne un tableau synoptique en trois parties:

l'expansion de la production vivrière dans tous les secteurs reste supérieure à la croissance démographique dans les pays de l'OCDE;

la contraction de la production alimentaire dans les autres régions développées, notamment dans les pays de l'ex-URSS et dans les pays en transition de l'Europe de l'Est;

la baisse de la production vivrière dans les pays en développement où la croissance démographique est nettement supérieure. Dans cette partie du monde la situation de l'Afrique reste particulièrement préoccupante.

L'Afrique est le continent le plus gravement touché par la pénurie alimentaire locale"

La FAO, dont nous fêtons le 50ème anniversaire en octobre prochain, et avec elle le PAM et le FIDA, a beaucoup fait pour le continent africain tant en temps normal que dans les situations de crise. Les pays développés sans distinction n'ont jamais ménagé leurs efforts pour soutenir le continent africain dans sa lutte contre la pauvreté et le sous-développement. Nous saisissons cette occasion pour remercier tous les partenaires du continent africain.

Mais lorsqu'une personne est malade, tant qu'elle n'est pas encore guérie, elle demande toujours plus à son médecin, et malheureusement, c'est le cas de l'Afrique.

Aussi pour mettre un terme à ces tristes fléaux de la faim, de la misère et de la malnutrition, l'Afrique doit-elle faire l'objet d'une attention particulière de la part de la communauté internationale.

Tout en marquant notre accord avec les analyses et les solutions décrites et proposées dans les documents précités, la délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire voudrait insister sur certaines idées importantes comme contribution à ce débat.

Premièrement, la maîtrise du développement agricole passe par la maîtrise de l'eau. Or le continent africain est la partie du monde où l'avancée du désert est la plus préoccupante. En effet, tous les efforts déployés pour la mise en exploitation du potentiel agricole seront vains, tant en Afrique que partout ailleurs dans le monde, si l'on ne maîtrise pas l'eau.

Deuxièmement le choix des techniques et de la technologie est très important, surtout dans le domaine de la production vivrière.

Comme nous l'avons vu dans le film projeté lors de la journée de la FAO pour l'Afrique la semaine dernière, aucun paysan africain ne peut acquérir un tracteur pour défricher son champ tant le coût est exorbitant. Or il y a des techniques et des technologies simples qui ont fait leurs preuves dans certaines régions du monde pour parvenir au développement agricole durable, en particulier en Asie où malgré l'existence de nombreuses

populations, la faim a notablement reculé. A propos de ces techniques simples, nous pensons à ces buffles qui labourent dans les mangroves pour produire le riz parfumé, à la retenue des eaux de pluie, aux larges fossés qui entourent les champs empêchant les rongeurs, et j'en passe.

Troisièmement, enfin, la combinaison de ces deux premiers éléments, à savoir la maîtrise de l'eau et le choix des techniques agricoles, aura une conséquence positive sur l'environnement en général et sur les ressources humaines en particulier. D'abord, on passera de l'agriculture extensive sur brûlis à l'agriculture intensive avec l'utilisation des engrais. Les forêts seront conservées. La pénibilité du travail agricole serait atténuée.

Comme vous le savez, l'exode rural dans les pays en développement serait freiné car les jeunes gens, pour la plupart déscolarisés, fuient les zones rurales à cause des conditions difficiles du travail de la terre.

Nous pensons aussi qu'il serait nécessaire d'envisager la création d'une banque internationale de données des techniques et des technologies du développement agricole au sein de la FAO pour permettre aux pays en développement qui le désirent de choisir les procédés les plus appropriés à leur agriculture.

Etant donné l'importance de la maîtrise de l'eau et des techniques appropriées du développement durable de l'agriculture, ma délégation voudrait faire une remarque sur l'expérience de la Côte d'Ivoire dans ce domaine. En effet, même en zone forestière humide comme la Côte d'Ivoire où les pluies sont très abondantes, les agriculteurs connaissent parfois et paradoxalement de graves problèmes d'eau pour leur agriculture parce qu'il n'y a pas de techniques efficaces pour le stockage, la conservation et la répartition de ces eaux qui finalement se perdent dans les fleuves et les océans. Or avec l'utilisation rationnelle des eaux pluviales intégrée aux ouvrages d'irrigation, nos pays pourraient assurer la mise en valeur des vallées libérées de l'onchocercose dans les vastes zones de savane humide. Cela permettrait non seulement de stabiliser l'agriculture pour assurer un développement durable mais aussi et surtout de protéger l'environnement en sauvegardant la biodiversité.

L'utilisation d'engrais dans ces zones irriguées donnerait des résultats spectaculaires sans aucun risque de pollution. Actuellement en Afrique on utilise 11 kg d'engrais par ha contre 100 kg en Inde et en Chine et une tonne dans les pays développés de l'OCDE.

Ma délégation voudrait profiter de cette occasion pour réitérer les remerciements du Gouvernement ivoirien à la FAO qui a réalisé un travail remarquable en Côte d'Ivoire sur le riz avec l'aide très appréciable des agriculteurs de l'Indonésie. Nous rendons hommage au Gouvernement indonésien pour cette coopération entre nos deux pays.

Au paragraphe 25 du document CL 108/10 le rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale décrit les obstacles qui entravent l'exploitation des potentiels existants dans les pays en développement et parmi ceux-là l'instabilité politique et sociale. Paraphrasant les sociologues nous disons que: "seule la misère est révolutionnaire". "Ventre affamé n'a point d'oreilles" dit un adage.

En effet, tant que la misère, la faim et la pauvreté seront le lot de la grande majorité des populations dans les pays en développement, aucun système politique et social de ces Etats ne résistera aux crises qui aboutissent aux troubles civils et aux conflits armés.

Pour terminer, la délégation ivoirienne, en accord avec les conclusions du document CL 108/10 au paragraphe 44 sait gré au Directeur général Jacques Diouf de l'ensemble du train de mesures qu'il a entreprises pour répondre à l'un des défis majeurs du troisième millénaire, à savoir réussir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Pour ce faire, la FAO doit privilégier les activités de terrain dans ce domaine car c'est là que s'opère le véritable changement pour une "nouvelle révolution verte".

Mohamed Said Mohamed ALI HARBI (Observer for Sudan): Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairmen for the personal confidence bestowed on you by the Members of the Council. I will be brief since we are approaching the end of this meeting.

Mr Chairman during the 20th Session of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome from 25 to 28 April 1995, I remember that some countries have expressed their views saying that, among the effects and impact of the Agricultural Agreement of the Uruguay Round on Food Security is that the developing countries

would find themselves obliged to export food when the world prices are high at the expense of local food security. It became clear that these countries can invoke Article XII of the Agricultural Agreement which deals with the implementation of prohibition of exports, but these countries would have to do that in conformity with the provisions of the Agreement taking into account the status of food security in the importing countries, members of the World Trade Organization.

At the same meeting, Mr Chairman, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should contact the World Trade Organization in order to find an interpretation for this Article. A Report, in this connection, will be submitted to the Committee on Food Security during the next session. My question as an observer is what is the role of the Council regarding this Article? Does the Council sympathize with the developing countries which are likely to be negatively affected by the Uruguay Round and the dark future awaiting them from this newly established World Trade Organization? The WTO as reflected in its philosophy is an organization that serves the interests of rich countries at the expense of the helpless countries, and I hope that in the future WTO will not be a sugar-coated poison for the developing countries. Mr Chairman, my question is not meant to belittle the importance of the role of the Committee on Food Security because it is played fully under the chairmanship of Mr Laureau, the Ambassador of France. The Committee has played its role effectively, I hope I am going to get an answer to my question and also hope that the Committee will ask this question at its next session. As an observer I hope to get an answer during this Session of the Council.

Mr Chairman, I would like to comment on what has been said by the Ambassador of Cuba on the embargo. I am not talking about direct embargo and I am not naming any country, but how can we help the food-deficit countries get out of that situation if we do not help them. Mr Chairman, we will be holding meeting after meeting and of course we will be attending the 50th Anniversary of this Organization and I will be glad because we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary, we will be dancing with the developed countries and we will be attending the World Food Summit. The Heads of State of the developing countries will deliver statements, they will refer to the scarce financial resources they have available, and I hope the rich countries will promise to give them more assistance in order to break this critical psychological barrier and we hope to banish the term food insecurity forever. These are some of the questions I hope will be answered. In conclusion I do support the report prepared by the Committee on food security under the chairmanship of Mr Laureau, the Ambassador of France.

Anton KOHLER (Observer for Switzerland): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I hope that the status as an observer allows us to make not only an observation but put forward the recommendation regarding document CL 108/2, paragraph 30, on regular features of the future CFS sessions and paragraph 44, arrangements for the next CFS sessions. Our delegation actively participated in debating paper CFS 1995/3. This paper was meant to present the balanced strategy for better food security including high-potential and low-potential fragile areas. Many constructive suggestions were made regarding the better integration of low-potential areas. As mentioned today by the distinguished delegations of Tanzania and the United States, many delegations reinforced each other in this regard.

Let me mention, maybe, one main reason for this. More than 300 million - I repeat - more than 300 million poor and hungry people live in the low-potential areas of the semi-arid tropics of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It was, therefore, suggested in CFS 1995 to include these highly justified recommendations in a revised version of paper CFS 1995/3. Our delegation was backed by many other delegations regarding this point.

I conclude briefly with the following, namely: 1, to include under paragraph 44 the following regular feature as a separate point for, I quote, "sustainable agriculture and food security towards a balanced strategy between high-potential and low-potential areas," unquote; 2, to present in the light of the CFS 1995 debate a revised version of paper CFS 1995/3 to the 21st or, if time doesn't allow, the 22nd Session of CFS. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido observador de Suiza. El Consejo ha tomado nota de su propuesta y desde luego el Comité de Redacción podría considerarlas y luego el Consejo adoptarlas si éste lo estima conveniente. Tiene la palabra el distinguido observador de Etiopía.

Gebrehiwot REDAI (Observer for Ethiopia): Thank you Mr Chairman. My delegation is deeply happy to see you chairing this important Session once again. I am inspired to make this small intervention in support of countries like Tanzania, the United States and Switzerland with whom we share their views on the issue of the Special Programme on Food Production for Food Security in LIFDC.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor observador. Se ha tomado nota también de su apoyo a la propuesta.

Tiene la palabra el observador de Guinea. Espero que sea también breve.

Souhaib Deen BANGOURA (Observateur de la Guinée): Ma délégation voudrait tout d'abord vous féliciter. Elle est toujours heureuse de vous voir diriger les travaux du Conseil. Elle saisit cette même occasion pour remercier le Secrétariat de sa documentation exhaustive. Ce document sur la situation de la sécurité alimentaire s'avère important. Ce document témoigne de la capacité de l'Organisation à présenter les forces d'une part, et les faiblesses de la production et des échanges agricoles et agro-alimentaires d'autre part. Il y a là inquiétude et espoir à la fois.

La situation de la sécurité alimentaire en 1994-95 s'est généralement détériorée par rapport à l'année précédente. On note avec préoccupation les points suivants: le rapport entre les stocks céréaliers mondiaux et la consommation se situe au niveau inférieur de la fourchette que le Secrétariat juge nécessaire pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire. La production des céréales dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier a augmenté sans suivre le rythme démographique. Les prix des céréales ont bien sûr augmenté ce qui alourdira à coup sûr le coût des importations. D'après les estimations, l'aide alimentaire en céréales descendra pour une fois au-dessous des dix millions de tonnes. C'est là un motif d'inquiétude. Il est également préoccupant de voir persister une série de crises alimentaires et une grave insécurité alimentaire due, aux troubles civils, aux catastrophes naturelles. Les estimations préliminaires laissent présager une augmentation massive des besoins d'importations céréalières notamment dans les pays subsahariens en 1995-96. Certains pays comme le nôtre ont de graves problèmes tels que l'afflux massif de réfugiés. Nous exprimons notre reconnaissance au PAM pour les secours fournis. La tendance de l'évolution démographique à long terme dans les pays d'Afrique et d'Asie notamment entraînera sans doute une forte augmentation des besoins d'importations céréalières. La production mondiale devrait atteindre 555 millions de tonnes en 1995, soit 50 pour cent de plus que la récolte inférieure à la normale de l'année dernière alors que la production de céréales secondaires devrait baisser de quatre pour cent.

Les stocks mondiaux de céréales pour 1995-96 pourraient encore baisser au-dessous des seuils mondiaux de sécurité. Pour atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire, il faut que les producteurs agricoles des pays en développement, qui sont les moins protégés du monde, bénéficient de conditions stables de production et de commercialisation de leurs produits. Il convient donc d'accorder une priorité à l'assistance et à la politique agricole. Il faut que les nations soient armées pour lutter contre la faim.

Ma délégation appuie le document qui lui a été présenté, ce matin, par le Secrétariat.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos Miembros del Consejo y Observadores, con esto concluye nuestra lista de oradores; si no hay alguien más que desee hacer uso de la palabra, le voy a pedir al Dr. de Haen que responda a algunas de las cuestiones aquí planteadas.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. There have not been that many questions and we take that as an expression of the Council's appreciation for the Committee's report and the depth of the arguments presented in this report. There were, however, one or two questions, to which I will refer in a moment. We noted the very profound and concrete guidance by the Council on the work of the Secretariat, in particular with regard to three or four main issues, which I would just like to repeat. One is, of course, the close monitoring of the global, regional and national food security situation, on which we had issued a word of caution which many of the delegations have taken up and endorsed. This monitoring will be not only in regard to the cereal situation but also to the

situation on the other markets for main commodities, depending on the production systems in the respective countries where particularly tense food security situations are observed. Therefore, of course, roots and tubers, pulses, milk, meat and other livestock products will also be included in this constant monitoring. Secondly, we have noted that the Council wishes us to continue the review of a wider set of indicators of the food security situation, including a review of the minimum safe stock levels for cereals which we had offered to conduct. Thirdly, monitoring of the impact of the Uruguay Round was mentioned by many and, if the Council so decides, we will continue to do this in collaboration with other organizations and report regularly through the next year to members. Finally, assistance to countries in the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, as suggested by many, is obviously a request by Council to the Secretariat.

There were two questions which I would like to respond to. The first was from the distinguished Delegate of Sudan with regard to paragraph 19 of the CFS report dealing with Article 12 of the Uruguay Round Agreement on export prohibitions and the conditions which would have to be satisfied before export bans were introduced. It is, of course, for the WTO Committee on Agriculture to decide what is necessary and how the Article should be implemented, both generally and when cases arise. It is no doubt for this reason that the CFS has not taken a position but rather has requested the Secretariat to contact the WTO at an appropriate time, which will, of course, be done.

In reply to the question of the distinguished Delegate of Switzerland with regard to the Agenda of the next Sessions of the CFS, I would like to say that we have noted the request by the Committee to continue the revision of the document dealing with sustainable agriculture and food security and the approaches as to how to assess potential at all levels: high, low, resource-poor or resource-rich areas. Whatever the definition is, you come to a different classification of countries. We note this request and, if not at the next CFS - for obvious reasons, because then you will devote considerable time to the documents for the World Food Summit - it will be at the following CFS that the Director-General will certainly consider the proposal to present an update of that document on sustainable agriculture and food security.

I think I have covered the most important points.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Dr. de Haen, por sus respuestas y comentarios. Si no hubiere ninguna observación a estas alturas, me voy a permitir rápidamente sintetizar, resumir, nuestros debates. En primer lugar, el Consejo felicitó al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria por la riqueza de sus debates y las conclusiones alcanzadas, que contribuyeron de manera importante a los trabajos de este Consejo. El Consejo también decidió endosar el informe del vigésimo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y con ello confirmó las principales conclusiones alcanzadas allí. Se pidió que las recomendaciones hechas se lleven a cabo, por tanto, a la brevedad posible. El Consejo también expresó preocupación por el deterioro general de la situación alimentaria en el mundo y por la persistencia de un gran número de situaciones de emergencia alimentaria, sobre todo en el continente africano, así como en el Cercano Oriente.

Muchos delegados destacaron su preocupación, en particular, por la disminución de los niveles de ayuda alimentaria, a la vista de necesidades crecientes. Varios países reafirmaron al respecto su intención de mantener la ayuda alimentaria en el futuro. Muchos delegados se hicieron eco de la preocupación por la contracción de las reservas internacionales y nacionales de cereales y por el estrechamiento adicional de los mercados de cereales, especialmente en las últimas semanas. Se coincidió con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en que la Secretaría de la FAO debía reconsiderar los óptimos nacionales de reservas y los niveles mínimos de salvaguarda de cereales. Algunas delegaciones consideraron que la relación de existencias/consumo era adecuada y fácil de administrar y que las tendencias no eran necesariamente preocupantes, en particular esperaban que los efectos de la liberalización comercial y la recuperación de la producción cerealera evitara un empeoramiento de esas tendencias.

Se destacó el papel importante que debe jugar la FAO en estos sentidos de esclarecer el panorama y de contribuir a ayudar a los países en situación de dificultad; se hizo referencia en particular a otorgarle apoyo a ciertos países específicos en condiciones difíciles de seguridad alimentaria. En el marco de este tema, el Consejo también examinó las principales repercusiones sobre la seguridad alimentaria derivada de las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay. Se subrayó la probabilidad de que el efecto de estas negociaciones seguramente estimulará la actividad económica mundial y nacional por lo menos en muchos países y que llevaría a una menor distorsión de los mercados y a una estabilización de los precios. No obstante, muchos

países destacaron los efectos negativos previsibles, sobre todo a corto plazo, para países en desarrollo importadores de alimentos. El Consejo reconoció que estos países podrían experimentar efectos negativos en cuanto a la disponibilidad de suministros suficientes de alimentos básicos, incluidas dificultades a corto plazo para financiar los niveles normales de importación de esos países. Por consiguiente se destacó la importancia de la decisión de la Ronda Uruguay en lo que se refiere a las medidas para hacer frente a estos problemas, y varios delegados insistieron en que la FAO continúe proporcionando la asistencia técnica a los países miembros para mitigar cualesquiera efectos negativos y para emprender también otros análisis en cooperación con otras organizaciones internacionales, si fuera necesario.

Se destacó también el caso de los países europeos vulnerables que se hallan en fase de transición, y la posible pérdida de su seguridad alimentaria. El Consejo examinó las posibilidades de aumentar la producción y la productividad de alimentos básicos para conseguir la seguridad alimentaria en países de bajos ingresos, con déficit de alimentos. Se destacó la importancia de los esfuerzos para promover el desarrollo del potencial agrícola.

El Consejo subrayó también que la inseguridad alimentaria debía abordarse, ante todo, mediante la mejora del acceso de los hogares a los alimentos; la importancia de la mitigación de la pobreza; aumentar las oportunidades de ingresos; también la importancia de mitigar las pérdidas por las cosechas. Se reconoció que tenía que atenderse a las diversas condiciones agro-ecológicas, económicas, sociales e institucionales, a fin de conseguir los niveles óptimos de producción de alimentos mediante la adopción de tecnología adecuada en esos países. Se destacó la importancia del manejo integrado de planes y del programa EMPRES, como muchos indicaron, y la puesta en marcha del nuevo programa especial sobre producción de alimentos en apoyo de la seguridad alimentaria, que fue lanzado por el Director General y recibió un fuerte apoyo, con el propósito de promover una mayor producción y productividad. Al mismo tiempo se le dio atención a un enfoque balanceado en las zonas de alto potencial y escasos recursos y que se enfocara el lado de la demanda a través de programas de alivio a la pobreza.

Quizás el informe del Consejo, distinguidos delegados, podría ser muy operativo, muy ejecutivo en cuanto a indicar de los debates aquellos aspectos que sean recomendaciones específicas y que se han destacado aquí como prioridades para que la Secretaría las atienda.

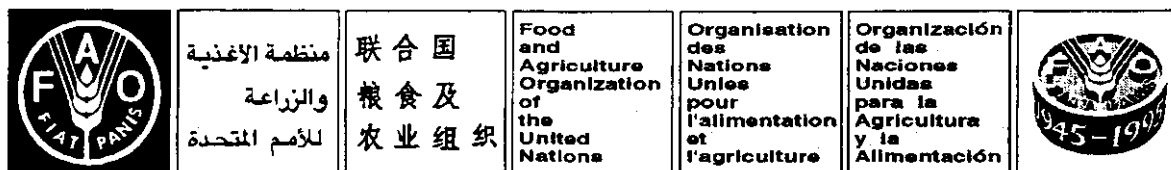
Hasta aquí mi resumen de los debates; si no hubiera ninguna otra cuestión levantaría la sesión. Les pido que nos reunamos mañana a las 9 y media en punto, para comenzar el tratamiento del Tema 4 sobre la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. Muchas gracias, distinguidos delegados. Se levanta la sesión.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.

6 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108° período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

6 June 1995

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50 sous
la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.50
horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo dos puntos que señalarles antes de entrar en la materia del Tema 4. El primero, está relacionado con la intención de algunos delegados de hacer el mejor de los esfuerzos para tratar de reducir el período de nuestro Consejo en un día y ahorrarle así a la Organización algunos recursos. Eso suena, desde luego, como una muy buena intención y yo creo que nadie, en principio, podría estar en contra de esto. Desde luego que he consultado con la Secretaría este punto y, les debo advertir, que si para ahorrarnos un día debemos sesionar en la tarde y en la noche, no solamente no habrá ahorro, sino que habrá gastos adicionales. Por otra parte, un día menos, claro que representa ahorros, no sustanciales, pero quizás podría ser esto indicativo de la mayor eficacia del Consejo. No obstante, distinguidos delegados, también debo advertirles que este Consejo está sujeto a tres procesos paralelos. El primero de ellos, es el Comité Técnico que debe culminar sus trabajos el viernes y debe ofrecer sus conclusiones y éstas ser discutidas y tomada una decisión en nuestro Consejo el día martes. En segundo lugar, el Grupo de trabajo que constituimos ayer para revisar el Proyecto de Declaración de Québec. Este Grupo sesionará, como ustedes saben, en principio, también el sábado y se reportará a nuestro Consejo el martes. Y, el tercer proceso, es el Comité de Redacción, que deberá llegar a un Proyecto de Informe a tiempo para que lo revisemos el miércoles. Con esas advertencias, distinguidos delegados, yo deseo ponerles en sus manos la pelota; está completamente en ustedes poder reportar las sesiones, la sesión para el miércoles y, espero que hayan tomado debida nota de las implicaciones y condiciones a que esto conlleva.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je crois que nous devons éviter le type de séance que nous avons eue hier après-midi au cours de laquelle beaucoup de délégués ont répété ce qui figurait dans le rapport. Je crois que cela ne sert pas à grand chose de paraphraser un rapport. Ce qui me paraît plus important ce sont les apports supplémentaires qui peuvent être faits de manière à faire avancer le débat. La Suisse a, par exemple, proposé hier un amendement très utile, mais c'est le seul que j'ai noté. Par conséquent, je pense que notre discussion doit porter sur des points nouveaux et ne pas reprendre ce qui a déjà été dit dans les comités techniques.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido delegado. Yo sé que todas las Delegaciones aquí presentes y los observadores son responsables de sus declaraciones y todos ustedes saben qué deben decir y qué pueden evitar. Yo no soy un dictador en el Consejo, simplemente lo presido y no puedo imponerle a ninguna Delegación los criterios respecto de lo que debe decir. Desde luego que en beneficio de todos y, por respeto al Consejo, les sugerí desde el principio de nuestras sesiones, que trataran de ser breves y, sobre todo, que hicieran aportaciones útiles al debate. Esto es una sugerencia, yo no soy aquí un juez respecto de la calidad y la profundidad con la que deben ustedes tratar éstas cuestiones. Desde luego, sí confirmo que es una recomendación general de la Presidencia el que recorten sus declaraciones y, sobre todo, que éstas sean una contribución efectiva. Más allá no puedo ir.

En lo que se refiere al segundo punto, deseo recordarles que conforme a nuestros acuerdos de ayer, la Secretaría nos había pedido que todas aquellas Delegaciones, Observadores y miembros del Consejo que tuvieran alguna aclaración, adición u observación, respecto del Proyecto de Declaración de Quebec, que la hicieran llegar por escrito a la Secretaría, lo más tarde para el mediodía de hoy. Esto tiene un sentido que va en beneficio de todos y, éste es que se pueda distribuir un documento el día de mañana que contenga sus propuestas y que a la vez pueda hacer referencia a aquellas adiciones que con anterioridad habían formulado Estados Miembros en el intercambio que habían sostenido con el Director General, para ese propósito. La Comunidad Europea ya envió sus comentarios a la Secretaría y esperamos que los otros miembros del Consejo y los Observadores que indicaron su intención de hacerlo, lo hagan a la mayor brevedad posible.

Distinguidos miembros del Consejo, Observadores, debo también hacerles notar, que contamos entre nosotros con dos distinguidos ministros en el día de hoy, el Ministro Fernando Robichaud, Secretario de Estado del Canadá y, el Ministro de Estado Robert Sagna, de Senegal.

WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)**SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)****SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)****4. Preparation for the World Food Summit****4. Préparatifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation****4. Preparativos para la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación**

EL PRESIDENTE: Como ustedes recordarán, en su 107º Período de Sesiones, el Consejo examinó la propuesta del Director General de llevar a cabo una Cumbre mundial sobre la alimentación. Aquel Consejo convino que esa iniciativa era a la vez oportuna y pertinente y consideró que, en su sesión de abril de este año, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria sostuviera un primer debate sobre los documentos que se prepararían para su adopción en la Cumbre. Todo esto con el fin de iniciar y permitir un diálogo abierto y constructivo sobre las cuestiones de fondo hasta esta sesión del Consejo.

En consecuencia, el Director General presentó a dicho Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, un primer documento y, las conclusiones del debate del Comité se encuentran en el documento CL 108/12, que se ha transmitido al Consejo y que ustedes, el día de ayer, quisieron posponer para debatirlas el día de hoy por la mañana.

En lo que se refiere a la preparación de la documentación para su adopción final por parte de la Cumbre, se le pide la opinión al Consejo sobre algunas cuestiones que permitan a la Secretaría preparar los borradores de texto y estas cuestiones, como ustedes pueden observar, se encuentran en las notas explicativas y se refieren principalmente al formato, al criterio y a la orientación regional y a otros documentos de la Cumbre. En lo que se refiere al primero, al formato, se propone, como ustedes ven, un breve documento normativo o de políticas que incluía una serie de principios y compromisos básicos, tales principios o compromisos estarían complementados por el Plan de Acción o Plan de Aplicación que serviría de guía para los gobiernos así como para los sectores no gubernamentales. El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria endosó esa propuesta y consideró fundamental que los documentos de la cumbre fueran concisos y comprensibles para todos.

En lo que se refiere al criterio para que la documentación sea concisa, el criterio propuesto consiste en hacer referencia a las conclusiones y acuerdos alcanzados en otros foros internacionales sin que se reabra aquí o en la Cumbre el debate sobre aquellos acuerdos ya logrados. El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria consideró esta propuesta apropiada e identificó aquellos foros internacionales.

Espero, por tanto, que este Consejo observe que este criterio es fundamental no sólo, para no extender innecesariamente las discusiones y, tampoco, para hacer excesivamente largos los documentos.

En lo que se refiere a la orientación regional, el texto adoptado será de interés global. Sin embargo, el Plan de Acción deberá tener en cuenta que muchos de los problemas a los que aludirá y la factibilidad de las soluciones, variarán según las regiones e incluso de un país a otro. El Comité consideró importante que se elaboraran los componentes regionales del Plan de Acción, que serán examinados por las Conferencias Regionales a celebrar en 1996.

En cuanto a los otros documentos para la Cumbre, un aspecto esencial de la propuesta del Director General, es que los documentos contengan cimientos analíticos sólidos en los que se asentarán, por tanto, los preparativos de la Cumbre. Las cuestiones de mayor importancia se presentarían en una serie de documentos técnicos, una lista de la cual la pueden ustedes encontrar en el Documento CL 108/12, y esos documentos abarcarían la trayectoria histórica, la situación presente y las tendencias futuras, y presentarán cuestiones que los gobiernos podrán examinar. Se está recabando ya la colaboración de la Comunidad Científica y de otras organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas y organizaciones no gubernamentales, para preparar esos documentos. Los textos, por tanto, se enviarán en el curso de 1995, es decir, un año antes de la celebración de la Cumbre.

Finalmente, en lo que se refiere al Consejo de Preparación, como ya saben los miembros del Consejo, la Cumbre se celebrará en noviembre de 1996. Es importante señalar que el Gobierno de Italia ha confirmado su disposición para apoyar a la FAO en la preparación y celebración de la Cumbre, mediante un apoyo tanto material como diplomático. Como la Cumbre ha sido postergada, también el tiempo adicional permite un

proceso de preparación más estructurado y con miras a asegurar una participación plena de los Estados Miembros. Yo sé que ustedes han insistido en ello y creo que la voluntad y la decisión del Director General es justamente facilitar esta participación plena.

Al mismo tiempo, se respeta el principio de realizar el trabajo preparativo en el curso de las reuniones ordinarias de la FAO, de tal suerte que los gastos de la preparación se reduzcan al mínimo posible. Es por ello que la Cumbre tendrá lugar una vez cubierto un ciclo de reuniones programadas para 1996, incluida la de este Consejo, la Conferencia y las reuniones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y luego, claro, las cinco conferencias regionales.

Está previsto, como ustedes saben, que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria se reúna en enero y comience el proceso de examen de los proyectos de texto para la Cumbre y que, después, las Conferencias Regionales elaboren los componentes regionales del Plan de Acción. Estos serán luego integrados y resumidos en algún punto, para que la Cumbre los considere.

La Secretaría tiene que preparar en el futuro próximo estos proyectos de texto que tendrán que ser distribuidos a los Estados Miembros hacia finales de año. Por consiguiente, es de importancia fundamental, repito, es importante, que este Consejo se pronuncie sobre las cuestiones subrayadas en el Documento CL 108/12 y, sobre el contenido de la Cumbre para orientar a la Secretaría en esta tarea.

A este respecto y dentro del espíritu de una efectiva participación de todos, cabe señalar que hay una sección del documento que trata de la visión para el desarrollo agropecuario. Esto constituye también, como ustedes saben, el tema de la reunión ministerial que tendrá lugar en Quebec en el contexto de la celebración del 50° aniversario de la FAO. Las orientaciones que este Consejo tenga a bien ofrecer en lo que se refiere a la problemática de la inversión, podrán ser utilizadas por la Secretaría en la documentación para esa importante reunión. Los resultados de Quebec, entonces, podrían ser recogidos plenamente en los proyectos de texto para la Cumbre.

En último lugar, me quiero referir al papel de la Conferencia, que es el órgano supremo de la FAO, que tiene la prerogativa de aprobar esta propuesta y de decidir sobre la Cumbre. El Director General, como ustedes han escuchado, tiene la intención de someter un documento a la Conferencia en este sentido.

Finalmente, como un recordatorio, las cuestiones de carácter presupuestario que involucrarían los trabajos preparativos y la celebración de la Cumbre, se discutirían bajo el Tema 16, de manera que les pido que no se refieran específicamente a las cuestiones de carácter presupuestario. Esto no implica, claro, que no lo hagan sobre las programáticas.

Señores delegados, yo creo que con estas notas introductorias podría permitirme pasar la palabra a la señora Killingsworth, para que nos haga la presentación de los documentos.

Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary General, World Food Summit): The Director-General spoke eloquently about the World Food Summit yesterday and you have just been so clear in your introduction to this debate that my introductory remarks will be very brief.

Mr Chairman, you have pointed out that this document which is before the Council is a revision of the document originally submitted to the CFS. We have tried in the extent possible to incorporate the results of the very substantive debate which the CFS had on the subject in order to facilitate the Council's debate. The results of your debate today will be valuable to us, as you have pointed out, in preparing draft texts for consideration of Member Nations in 1996. As you can imagine, the time required for us to prepare good drafts means that we will have to be working on them over the next six months, and I would therefore like to thank you for drawing the Council's attention to the importance for us of receiving your guidance in beginning this process.

Mr Chairman, you have also drawn Council's attention to the four major points raised for Council's consideration in the Explanatory Note and I will not go into any further detail on that. I would simply like to draw to your attention that the proposals before you represent the Secretariat's suggestions as to what elements could be included in a policy document and a plan of action for submission to the Summit. What we

have, in fact, provided for you is an outline or, as we called it in the CFS, a skeleton. We will be drawing on the points you make in order to flesh out that skeleton in a draft text. We would like, first of all, the Council's views as to whether we have got the right skeleton, whether this provides a good basis for further work and if not, how we should modify it. I would like to beg your indulgence in pointing out that the document is only an outline and obviously the various elements are treated in extremely concise form. We would seek your understanding that a number of points which members may have wished to have seen elaborated upon could obviously not be elaborated upon to any great extent in such a brief document. It would be on the basis of the comments you make that we will carry out that elaboration in the months to come. So with that, Mr Chairman, we are looking forward with great interest in the Council's discussion. I would remain at your disposal for any further clarification that may facilitate your debate.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por sus comentarios introductorios. Abro ahora la lista de oradores, pero deseo decirles que por respeto a la investidura de los distinguidos ministros que nos acompañan, hay un observador, el Señor Ministro Robert Sagna, observador del Senegal, que nos ha pedido ser él el primer orador de esta sesión. Si ustedes lo permiten, así será.

Robert SAGNA (Observateur du Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, vous me permettrez tout d'abord, au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne et en mon nom personnel, de vous féliciter chaleureusement de la manière dont vous dirigez, depuis hier, les travaux de ce Conseil. Ma présence aujourd'hui parmi vous, bien que le Sénégal soit un pays observateur du Conseil, est un témoignage du soutien sans failles que mon pays apporte aux activités de la FAO, sous l'impulsion de son Directeur général, Jacques Diouf, mais également au rôle des organes directeurs de notre organisation dont les missions au service de l'humanité ne sont plus à démontrer.

Nous apprécions à sa juste valeur l'action que le Directeur général mène pour restructurer, réorganiser et rationaliser le secrétariat de la FAO de manière à le rendre plus fonctionnel, plus dynamique, mais aussi plus efficace et moins coûteux.

Au moment où le monde continue de connaître la faim et la malnutrition, en particulier en Afrique, l'initiative de tenir un Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, l'année prochaine, principalement axé sur la sécurité alimentaire est une initiative à la fois significative de l'importance que ce sujet revêt mais également opportune et tout à fait bénéfique; et je peux vous assurer que le chef de l'Etat du Sénégal, le président Abdou Diouf, son gouvernement et le peuple tout entier soutiennent cette heureuse initiative. Le regroupement international au niveau de cette grande conférence, nous en sommes persuadés, offrira à la communauté des Etats une heureuse occasion de prendre, au plus haut niveau, des engagements fermes et des orientations politiques indispensables dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire à partir d'objectifs concrets qui en seront dégagés. C'est tout au moins le souhait que nous formulons.

Les organisations internationales, et en particulier celles du système des Nations Unies, nous le savons également, traversent une période de crise financière, crise à laquelle la FAO n'échappe pas. Si cela doit nous amener à retenir pour notre prochain exercice biennal une croissance réelle zéro, il reste qu'il est de notre devoir à tous, en vertu de notre adhésion aux textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation, qui fixent ses buts et objectifs, de donner à la FAO les moyens minimums dont cette organisation a besoin pour mener efficacement sa mission. Il y va, bien entendu, de sa survie mais aussi de la survie de nombreuses populations qui souffrent aujourd'hui de la malnutrition. Il y va également de la survie des actions et des objectifs que nous nous sommes assignés dans les domaines de l'agriculture, de la pêche, des forêts et de la conservation des ressources naturelles.

Au demeurant, le programme prioritaire retenu comme celui qui vise à accroître la production alimentaire et à assurer la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faibles revenus et à déficit vivrier est celui destiné à mettre en place un système de prévention des maladies et de réponse rapide à celles-ci. Je pense que ces objectifs devraient recueillir toute l'attention du Conseil.

Dans son message, hier, le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO dresse des orientations pertinentes et, en particulier, celles de renforcer les capacités nationales des pays et de renforcer également la coopération technique entre pays en développement. Cette option de décentralisation, de responsabilisation et

d'accroissement de la coopération sud-sud mérite d'être saluée et encouragée. La situation alimentaire dans le monde et les perspectives à moyen terme de son amélioration n'offrent guère de possibilités d'optimisme, surtout dans les pays à faibles revenus et à déficit vivrier dont l'écrasante majorité se situe notamment, je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, dans le continent africain.

Dans le même ordre d'idée, il est inquiétant de noter le recul de l'aide qui, pour la première fois depuis 10 ans, régresse de manière inquiétante. Les défis auxquels doit faire face la FAO pour lutter contre la faim, la pauvreté, la malnutrition, deviennent également de plus en plus importants. M. le Directeur général l'a rappelé dans son discours.

En réunissant au niveau ministériel, en mars dernier, les responsables des secteurs de la pêche et des forêts, le Directeur général a induit une nouvelle dynamique participative à notre organisme commun - cela après la cent sixième session du Conseil - marquant ainsi un élan consensuel et solidaire qui balise la voie du changement et du renouveau d'une institution appelée à une nouvelle jeunesse et à même de répondre mieux que par le passé aux défis cruciaux de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde dont la population, hélas, ne cesse de s'accroître, parfois à un rythme supérieur à celui de la production alimentaire.

Québec, au Canada, qui marquera le cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO porté sur les fonds baptismaux au Château Frontenac, à Québec et Rome, qui recevra, en 1996, le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation axé sur le problème de la sécurité alimentaire. Ces deux événements constitueront des étapes supplémentaires significatives dans la marche de la FAO réformée, redynamisée et revitalisée, à l'orée du vingt et unième siècle.

Vous pouvez être assurés, honorables délégués, que le Sénégal, en ce qui le concerne, sera bien sûr à ce rendez-vous historique pour marquer sa foi et son engagement en notre Organisation, et je voudrais vous remercier tous de votre aimable attention.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias Señor Ministro, por sus comentarios; este Consejo ha tomado debida nota de ellos.

Pedro MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile): El documento CL 108/10 párrafo 31 y siguientes, recoge, en nuestra opinión, el debate que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial desarrolló sobre el texto que la Secretaría preparó respecto de una posible declaración sobre política global y a un plan de acción. Al respecto, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación considera que esta parte del documento refleja adecuadamente la discusión sostenida en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y que, en consecuencia, nuestra atención debería centrarse en el documento CL 108/12, que la Secretaría ha preparado justamente teniendo en cuenta la discusión mantenida en el referido Comité. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación quisiera, antes de pronunciarse sobre el contenido de estos documentos, y atendiendo al título exacto del ítem sometido en la propuesta de agenda a este Consejo, Preparativos de la Cumbre, hacer algunas consideraciones sobre aspectos más bien formales del proceso preparatorio de la cumbre, y enseguida hacer comentarios sobre el fondo de los documentos.

En primer lugar, señor Presidente, mi delegación se permite solicitar formalmente a este Consejo que, en atención a las razones expuestas por el señor Director General de la FAO para convocar una Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación en noviembre de 1996 en Roma, este Consejo respalde esta convocatoria formalmente y que recomiende a la próxima Conferencia General de la FAO que adopte una resolución en tal sentido. Tal como se ha señalado en la convocatoria, el propósito de esta Cumbre será renovar el compromiso de los dirigentes de máximo nivel de todo el mundo para erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición y conseguir la seguridad alimentaria para todos, mediante la adopción de políticas y acciones concertadas en los planos mundial, regional y nacional.

Creemos que la convocatoria de una cumbre de este tipo es pertinente y oportuna en atención a los graves problemas de inseguridad alimentaria que afectan a una proporción importante de la población mundial. Los antecedentes del problema, expuestos en numerosos documentos de la FAO, y las perspectivas que se presentan para las generaciones futuras, nos imponen un deber moral y político para actuar decididamente y afrontar las causas profundas que lo generan.

Es por esto, señor Presidente, que transcurridos más de 20 años desde la celebración de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación en 1974, y no habiéndose logrado las metas de erradicar el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición, la propuesta del señor Director General debe ser respaldada por los órganos rectores de la FAO, concretamente su Consejo y la Conferencia General.

En su proceso preparatorio, tal como se ha señalado, debe asegurarse la participación de todos los sectores de la sociedad, incluyendo a los gobiernos, organismos no gubernamentales y del sector privado.

Los arreglos de la Secretaría al respecto, nos parecen adecuados, especialmente en lo que se refiere a las reuniones preparatorias de que aprovechen los períodos de sesiones ordinarios de los órganos de la FAO.

Asimismo son importantes las reuniones entre la Secretaría y las representaciones acreditadas ante la FAO en Roma.

El calendario de reuniones que se plantea, tanto el que ya tuvo lugar del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial de este mismo Consejo, de los Ministros de Agricultura y de Cooperación para el desarrollo, con ocasión del 50° aniversario de la FAO en Quebec (Canadá), en octubre de 1995, vale decir este año, la Conferencia de la FAO en su 28° período de sesiones, las conferencias regionales de la FAO, etc., permitirán debatir las cuestiones más relevantes de la seguridad alimentaria.

En lo que respecta a la preparación técnica de la Cumbre, en particular lo relativo a la preparación de la declaración política y el programa de acción, así como los documentos técnicos de base, de carácter analítico para resaltar la cuestión que merecen la atención de la comunidad internacional, nos permitimos proponer que esta responsabilidad sea encomendada al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Para estos efectos proponemos que este Comité asuma el rol del Comité preparatorio de la Cumbre y que como resultado de sus debates y trabajo, sea este Comité el que en última instancia, someta formalmente a la consideración de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno el proyecto de declaración y programa de acción. En tal sentido el Comité debería celebrar, además de la reunión prevista para enero de 1996, otra sesión en septiembre de ese año para consolidar en un documento final los aportes de las conferencias regionales de los países, de los organismos no gubernamentales y del sector privado. En su reunión de enero próximo el Comité podría establecer un grupo de trabajo, si así lo considera, para que coordine el trabajo que sea necesario con la Secretaría en relación a la preparación de los documentos, tanto de base analítica como aquellos que sean o se estimen necesarios en la elaboración final de la declaración en el programa de acción.

Asimismo este Comité podría hacer indicaciones precisas a las conferencias regionales y a los gobiernos, respecto de las cuestiones más relevantes que deberían comprender los documentos y estudios que éstos preparen. Del mismo modo el Comité podría orientar la forma en que los demás organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas podrían contribuir en la preparación de estudios y documentos relevantes para la Cumbre Mundial.

Esto sería en términos muy resumidos, señor Presidente, lo que mi delegación somete a la consideración de este Consejo en lo que respecta al proceso preparatorio de la Cumbre en sus aspectos formales.

En lo que se refiere al contenido mismo del documento CL 108/12, queremos expresar nuestra satisfacción por el esfuerzo de la Secretaría al presentarnos un texto que recoge nuestra opinión, adecuadamente el debate y los acuerdos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Se nos ha preguntado si el esqueleto es adecuado, si es una buena base. Nosotros pensamos que, efectivamente, es una buena base, perfectamente perceptible, y al respecto quisiéramos tan sólo expresar unos breves comentarios.

Los párrafos 15 a 17, se refieren al imperativo ético, la sobreexplotación de la tierra y la relación entre alimentos y población.

El párrafo 15 es bastante claro al afirmar que el "mundo tiene la capacidad de producir alimentos para todos" ésta es la afirmación de fondo, vale decir, que si se adoptaran modelos de desarrollo adecuados habría alimentos para todos.

El párrafo 16, sin embargo, hace una afirmación: Para cubrir las necesidades humanas de alimentos, etc., se amenazan gravemente los recursos de la tierra. Pareciera que se afirma que existe una relación entre producir

alimentos y destruir la naturaleza. La verdad es que se puede producir sin destruir los recursos naturales, y esto es lo que hay que resaltar. Lo mismo vale para el concepto de población, y su relación con los alimentos. Si existe la voluntad política y se adoptan las medidas adecuadas, es perfectamente posible producir alimentos y disponer de ellos incluso para una población creciente sin destruir la naturaleza. No porque la población crezca necesariamente se tiene que destruir la naturaleza.

El imperativo ético, en nuestra opinión, podría partir afirmando lo inaceptable del hecho de que exista un número importante de personas que padezcan hambre y malnutrición; que se esté degradando y destruyendo los recursos naturales, y la base de la sustentación de la humanidad comprometiendo el futuro de las generaciones venideras, en circunstancias que podrían ser perfectamente posibles producir alimentos adecuados y suficientes para la población tanto actual como futura.

Quisiera sintetizar, señor Presidente, respecto a esta parte que, en nuestra opinión, el imperativo ético debería comprender lo incluido en los párrafos 15 a 17 de manera de que exista una estrecha relación entre los elementos que he señalado. En la forma propuesta pareciera que, y entiendo que no es la intención, puede deberse a problemas de traducción, pero en la forma propuesta pareciera que existiría una contradicción conceptual entre estos elementos. A partir de estos elementos, integrados en el concepto básico consideramos, señor Presidente, que se deberían derivar los efectos negativos de esta situación y que están, en mi opinión, adecuadamente expuestos en las partes siguientes del documento. Sin embargo, me permitiría en este caso sugerir que, en el párrafo 17 en la penúltima parte, a partir de la frase: "Proseguirá el desarrollo humano, substrayendo tierras y manos de obra a la agricultura, etc." que eso sea considerado justamente como uno de los efectos que se derivan del mal aprovechamiento de los recursos naturales y de lo inadecuado de las políticas de desarrollo.

En relación con la estructura del documento, parecería necesario, a mi juicio, destacar en el formato la parte correspondiente a los recursos genéticos. En nuestra opinión en el párrafo 23 hay dos elementos que están conceptualmente unidos, uno se refiere a los recursos del Norte y del Sur, orientándose hacia la inversión. Da la impresión de que se tratara más bien de políticas de inversión, investigación, desarrollo y tecnología, educación infraestructura rural, y se incluyen los recursos genéticos en el mismo concepto, circunstancia que podría evitarse toda vez que el tratamiento de los recursos genéticos es, de por sí, extraordinariamente importante para la seguridad alimentaria que merece, en nuestra opinión, ser destacado.

En lo que se refiere al párrafo 25, señor Presidente, consideramos que más que hacer una constatación de los cambios ocurridos, si estamos hablando de las necesidades de acción, lo lógico sería referirse al rol de los gobiernos y, en tal sentido, reducir lo más posible las referencias que se hacen a la característica de la situación actual.

Quisiéramos, igualmente, señor Presidente, que se hiciera una mención específica al desafío que emana de los acuerdos de la Ronda Uruguay, particularmente al comercio agrícola. Creemos que en esta área la seguridad alimentaria encontrará los mayores desafíos. Por tal razón me permitiría sugerir que se destacara adecuadamente en el plan de acción.

En lo que se refiere al plan de acción, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación hará más adelante intervenciones específicas sobre este tema.

Quisiéramos limitar hasta aquí nuestros comentarios.

Hiroaki KISHI (Japan): On behalf of the twenty countries in the Asia group I would like to applaud the Director-General's initiative on securing the World Food Security. I would also like to reaffirm our continued support to convene the World Food Summit in November 1996. We hope it will be successful with a fruitful outcome. The Head of Delegation of Japan will make his own statement.

Yasuo ENDO (Japan): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Japanese Government, my delegation would think that it is timely and significant to convene the World Food Summit.

I appreciate the effort made by the Secretariat to revise the documents taking into account the deliberation of the last meeting of the CFS. It is, however, regrettable that we could not have enough time to examine the documents, because it was just one week before the Council when they were distributed to member countries. My delegation in this connection would suggest that the Secretariat allow member countries to submit additional comments on paper even after the end of the Council.

Mr Chairman, we support the idea of the World Food Summit and expect world leaders to participate in it. However, there should be some flexibility in terms of the level of participation according to each country's situation for the success of the Summit.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its basic view on food security by summarizing into the following two points, and later submit written comments and revisions on the document to the Secretariat.

The first point is how we could secure a stable supply of food for all, including those in both developing and developed countries, while touching upon how we could effectively address two different types of problems: one is hunger and malnutrition, to be addressed urgently, and the second is the universal food security to be attained in a longer time frame.

The second point is how we could maintain and enhance the vitality of agriculture and rural communities which are the source of various foods and vital base of food security for individual countries.

As the document indicates, it is unacceptable that even now, 800 million people are chronically undernourished in developing countries. My delegation fully recognizes that the food shortage in developing countries is the biggest and most urgent issue at this moment. I understand this perception is reflected in the "Statement of Purpose" and "the meaning of food security" in the document.

On the other hand, from the long-term perspective, it should be also recognized that the food problem is not limited to "free from hunger" and has so many facets according to the state of economic development. At this juncture, multi-dimensional and practical concept of universal food security on the long-term basis should be reflected in the Summit document.

Mr Chairman, a clear example of different and multi-dimensional food security issue can be seen in Asian countries, which are densely populated and have a relatively high rate of population growth.

On the one hand, certain regions are still facing severe food crises such as hunger and chronic malnutrition, which are subject to urgent need of food security.

On the other hand, however, in other Asian nations, a different type of food security concern can be identified.

ASEAN countries and China are likely to present the first example. These countries have been experiencing high economic growth with accompanying improvement in living standards for a huge number of regional population. This will lead to a higher food consumption level and increased demand for not only food grains but also feed grains, meats, and other value-added agricultural products.

As for the production in these regions, a question arises on whether it will be able to continue to increase at the same pace as before, due to diminishing farm land and growing environmental constraints brought by economic growth.

Consequently, it is likely that these Asian nations might have some periodic unstable food situation in the future.

Another food security concern in Asian countries can be seen in highly industrialized countries like Japan, Korea and Singapore. These countries that are not much blessed with land resources have been becoming more and more reliant on food imports in order to meet the steady increase in diversified food demand, due to the economic growth and gradual population growth. Consequently, in the case of Japan, for instance, the

self-sufficiency ratio in food has been continuing to fall below 50 percent. This creates a great concern among Japanese people for food security.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would be of the view that due attention should be also paid to the question on how to address multi-dimensional food security in various countries. The answer is that different food security concerns can be taken care of by different and appropriate means.

In this connection, "self-reliance" principle - that means domestic food production supplemented by access to food - is important. In view of this principle, a balanced approach is necessary. In addition, the concept included in the World Food Security Compact resolved at the 23rd FAO Conference in November, 1985, is also taken seriously. It stated that net food importing countries should promote domestic production, at least, of basic foodstuff and try to avoid the risks resulting from excessive dependence on food imports, as a basic policy for food security.

Mr Chairman, in this regard, the relationship between food security and agricultural trade should be treated with full caution. Further discussions are needed on how agricultural trade could contribute to improving food security, and I would emphasize the need to avoid any expressions that imply trade measures beyond the Uruguay Round agreement.

Mr Chairman, I would like to go into another subject on how to maintain and enhance the vitality of agricultural and rural communities in order to effectively operate those multi-functions.

The need for these multi-functions vary depending on the stage of economic development. An appropriate evaluation of these multiple functions is highly important for sustainable agricultural development which is a strong base for food security.

My delegation would appreciate the references to the multi-functional aspects of agriculture made in the documents. In my country people have some concern for the possible loss of such functions of agriculture as the conservation of land and the environment, and maintenance of rural economy. In particular, due emphasis should be given to agriculture's function to conserve the environment, because promoting agriculture's positive function to the environment would lead to the solution to both food and environmental problems.

My delegation, thus would expect that the draft of the Summit documents would fully reflect the special feature of agriculture which has such multiple and indispensable functions.

Finally, my delegation would like to briefly touch upon two additional issues: first, agricultural investment; the second, fisheries.

With respect to the issue of "investment," it seems to be singled out as the theme of the Ministerial Meeting in Quebec. My delegation, however, would rather prefer more general discussion on food and agriculture, of course, admitting the importance of the issue of investment.

With respect to fisheries, it is also expected to have a quite important role if they are conducted in a responsible and sustainable manner, with this in mind, within FAO, the "Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries" is being elaborated for establishing sustainable use of living marine resources.

Along the same line, the Government of Japan is going to hold the "International Conference on Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries for Food Security" the so-called "Kyoto Conference," this coming December, for reaffirming the important role of fisheries and their contribution to food security. We, therefore, wish that the World Food Summit documents duly include specific reference to fisheries and these important initiatives.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

Salah HAMDI (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): Le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation constituera une manifestation importante qui se déroulera au plus haut niveau de représentation politique et qui sera une occasion de mobiliser la conscience internationale pour faire face à l'un des problèmes majeurs auxquels est confrontée l'humanité dans bon nombre de régions du monde, à savoir la sécurité alimentaire. C'est ainsi que

de prime abord la Tunisie a accordé son soutien le plus absolu à l'initiative du Directeur général. Cet appui a d'ailleurs été réaffirmé lors du Sommet des pays africains réunis à Tunis en juin 1994 et il a été réitéré lors d'un certain nombre de forums internationaux et régionaux. Je citerai à titre d'exemple la Conférence au sommet de l'OCI et le Conseil de la Ligue des Etats arabes.

L'allocation inaugurale du Directeur général lors de la première séance de ce Conseil indique que les préparatifs sont en bonne voie et que le soutien de 61 chefs d'Etat a déjà été acquis à la tenue de ce Sommet et qu'en fait les préparatifs ont été officiellement lancés dès la dernière session du CSA et qu'ils seront poursuivis selon un calendrier clairement établi. Tout en exprimant notre satisfaction quant à ces signes encourageants, et en exprimant nos remerciements et notre reconnaissance au Gouvernement italien qui a bien voulu apporter son appui à cette importante initiative en abritant ce Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, nous espérons voir s'amplifier ce soutien pour cette initiative porteuse de grands espoirs pour les pays en développement et notamment les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, dans leur lutte pour alléger le phénomène de la malnutrition et réaliser leur sécurité alimentaire. L'une des dernières manifestations de soutien à cette initiative sur le plan africain a consisté à réunir au mois d'avril dernier, à Tunis, un séminaire portant sur la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique auquel ont participé les représentants des ministères de l'agriculture et les représentants des associations professionnelles d'agriculteurs, certaines ONG ainsi que des organismes spécialisés dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, avec la FAO à leur tête. D'autres organismes tels que le PNUD, le PAM, le FIDA et certaines institutions financières telles que la Banque mondiale, la Fédération internationale de producteurs agricoles, la FIPA, etc. ont également participé à ce séminaire. De même a-t-on créé en Tunisie un bureau national de liaison présidé par le Directeur général du plan au sein du Ministère de l'agriculture. Ce bureau doit constituer le point de liaison directe avec le Secrétariat de l'Organisation pour le suivi des préparatifs de ce Sommet.

En ce qui concerne le projet de déclaration ou proclamation, le document directeur d'une part et d'autre part le plan d'action qui font suite au débat qui a eu lieu au cours de la dernière session du CSA et les recommandations qui en sont issues, les documents revus et corrigés qui sont présentés au Conseil sont porteurs d'importantes améliorations et de nouvelles idées par rapport à la mouture initiale. Si le rapport du CSA n'a pas, comme il a été initialement convenu, consigné toutes les recommandations et propositions soumises par les délégations présentes lors de cette session, le Secrétariat n'en a pas moins pris note de toutes les contributions et nous sommes confiants qu'il continuera à oeuvrer à l'amélioration de ces documents à la lumière des différentes contributions qui seront apportées lors de la présente session du Conseil et lors de futures occasions afin que le document, dans sa version finale, soit volontariste et mobilisateur et qu'il contribue de manière constructive à sensibiliser l'opinion internationale pour faire face au problème de l'insécurité alimentaire et offrir à l'humanité un programme d'action visant à renforcer la production agro-alimentaire dans les pays concernés de manière à alléger les maux que sont la malnutrition et l'insécurité alimentaire, permettant ainsi d'éliminer la pauvreté à moyen ou à long terme.

Point n'est besoin de revenir à ce que j'ai déjà exprimé lors de la dernière session du CSA. Je dirai qu'il est nécessaire d'insister dans le texte de la version définitive des documents du Sommet sur la nécessité de renforcer la solidarité entre les pays développés et ceux en développement et ce, au moyen du renforcement de la coopération internationale. S'il convient de renforcer la solidarité entre les pays en développement et les pays développés, il convient également de renforcer la solidarité entre les pays en développement eux-mêmes et, ce, dans le cadre d'une sorte de pacte pour la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire internationale sur la base des concepts de partenariat, et de globalité qui doivent caractériser les relations internationales.

Pour conclure je pense qu'il est opportun que notre Conseil élabore une recommandation à l'intention de la Conférence de la FAO appelant à prendre une décision dans un sens qui confirme l'initiative du Directeur général et qui assure la tenue du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en novembre 1996. De même pensons-nous qu'il convient que le CSA serve de comité préparatoire à ce Sommet.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido Delegado de Túnez.

Le ofrezco ahora la palabra, y este Consejo se honra en escuchar al señor Secretario de Estado, Fernand Robichaud.

Canadá tiene la palabra.

Fernand ROBICHAUD (Canada): La sécurité alimentaire. Il s'agit là d'une question fort complexe qui touche l'essence même de l'être humain. Comment justifier qu'à cinq années seulement de l'an 2000, 800 millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants souffrent toujours de faim et de malnutrition?

Dans le document qui nous intéresse aujourd'hui, c'est-à-dire le "projet de document directeur et de plan d'action sur la sécurité alimentaire universelle", on nous présente une définition de la sécurité alimentaire à laquelle mon pays souscrit pleinement. Non seulement approuvons-nous le processus ayant permis la rédaction de ce document, mais nous nous rallions à plusieurs principes qui y sont cités.

Entre autres, nous appuyons le principe selon lequel les dirigeants de chaque pays doivent appliquer des politiques responsables et des programmes nationaux responsables destinés à fournir une alimentation saine et sécuritaire à la population. Notre plan d'action doit encourager une éducation accrue, le transfert de la technologie et l'amélioration des politiques et des programmes déjà en place.

Nous convenons également que cette responsabilité correspond à la notion d'autonomie telle que décrite dans le rapport du Conseil. Un gouvernement qui assume ses responsabilités à l'égard de ses citoyens favorise l'activité économique et, dès lors, permet de puiser des denrées alimentaires aux sources variées de production intérieure ou d'importation.

Mais j'estime par contre qu'il est faux de croire que l'autosuffisance d'un pays en matière de production vivrière peut seule lui assurer la sécurité alimentaire. J'appuie plutôt le principe selon lequel des échanges commerciaux libres et loyaux sont essentiels au concept d'autonomie. Et seules la mise en place fructueuse de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC) et l'assurance d'une stabilité politique dans le monde entier nous rapprocheront d'une véritable autonomie économique.

Il est tout aussi vrai que les pays en voie de développement peuvent mettre du temps à atteindre une certaine autonomie. Conscient de ce fait, mon pays a mis sur pied un programme d'aide publique qui s'attaque directement à la pauvreté, source même de la faim et de la malnutrition.

En nous attaquant à la pauvreté notre but est de contribuer à la croissance économique des pays en développement tout en concentrant nos efforts principalement sur:

- l'aide humanitaire nécessaire pour combler les besoins humains fondamentaux;
- la reconnaissance d'une pleine participation de la femme aux activités de développement durable de la communauté;
- les droits de la personne;
- la protection de l'environnement;
- une infrastructure favorisant des pratiques saines sur un plan écologique;
- et un secteur privé favorisant la croissance économique.

Je tiens à préciser que, si nous souhaitons concilier l'environnement alimentaire mondial et la fluctuation des besoins des pays touchés, il nous faudra un plan d'action solide fondé sur les points suivants:

1. Il nous faut en premier lieu tenir compte de la population. En effet, on peut dire qu'un peuple a atteint la sécurité alimentaire lorsqu'il a accès à une alimentation adéquate, c'est-à-dire de qualité et en quantité suffisantes, qui permet de mener une vie saine, active et productive.
2. Il faut que les pays harmonisent leurs politiques commerciales et intérieures ainsi que leurs objectifs en matière d'aide au développement. Ainsi, ces pays seront en mesure d'élaborer une approche cohérente et d'atteindre ensemble la sécurité alimentaire à l'échelle mondiale.

3. Finalement, je crois que la question de partenariats étroits avec les organismes non gouvernementaux et le secteur privé mérite une attention toute particulière.

Je dois vous avouer ma grande satisfaction lorsque j'ai constaté qu'une section importante du préambule du rapport est désormais consacrée à ce sujet. Il est à espérer que cette section soit annonciatrice d'un dialogue renouvelé entre la FAO et les organismes non gouvernementaux. Cependant, cette section ne va pas vraiment au fond du sujet. En effet, je crois que l'on doit traiter cette question dans le corps du rapport, comme l'un des principes de la déclaration, et non dans le préambule qui le précède. J'irai même un peu plus loin en incitant les délégations à considérer la question du partenariat comme un engagement ferme à inclure dans le rapport du Conseil.

Ainsi notre position est claire: Nous devons établir des partenariats étroits avec les organismes non gouvernementaux et les entreprises privées en vue d'éliminer la faim et la pauvreté. Et nous devons canaliser nos efforts dans les activités d'aide auxquelles nous destinent nos atouts respectifs et les plus susceptibles d'avoir un impact important. Dans le cadre de nos discussions relatives au "projet de document directeur et de plan d'action", nous nous devons de nous poser la question suivante: Est-ce que le plan d'action que nous sommes amenés à rédiger rencontre notre objectif commun d'éliminer la pauvreté, la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde?

Sur cette question, j'aimerais conclure en reprenant mes propos du début et en invitant l'ensemble des pays de la communauté internationale à redoubler leurs efforts afin de contrer le fléau de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté qui sévit sur notre planète depuis trop longtemps déjà.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco mucho, señor Secretario de Estado, sus observaciones, comentarios y propuestas de las que este Consejo ha tomado nota y que además utilizará en sus debates.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Monsieur le Président, j'apporterai une contribution à ce débat au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 15 Etats Membres. Cette déclaration sera complétée, comme vous l'avez vu, par les commentaires que feront différentes délégations, notamment l'Allemagne et la Grande Bretagne. Nous avons fait part de notre position détaillée lors de la réunion du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Je serai donc bref.

La proposition du Directeur général d'organiser un Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation intervient à un moment particulièrement opportun. Nous approuvons donc l'idée de cette conférence car nous avons des raisons de nous préoccuper de l'avenir et nous avons des indices de plus en plus évidents d'une crise alimentaire, nettement plus évidents qu'il y a 20 ans puisque la Conférence mondiale sur l'alimentation de 1974 s'était tenue dans un contexte de période de longue sécheresse, appelant à adopter des solutions d'urgence. Aujourd'hui, au contraire, nous devons examiner très étroitement les causes de la persistance de ménages chroniquement sous-alimentés dans le monde, renouveler les engagements de lutter contre ce phénomène et renouveler les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire en mettant cette préoccupation en tête des calendriers de réflexion de notre Organisation internationale. Nous faisons donc nôtres l'initiative et les objectifs de ce qui sera sans nul doute un événement international majeur. Cet événement réveillera en effet, nous l'espérons, à la fois l'attention politique et l'attention de l'opinion publique sur la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire. Nous espérons que notre soutien à cet événement permettra de définir des lignes opérationnelles sur les politiques et les programmes propres à régler les problèmes croissants de la sécurité alimentaire.

Nous apprécions les efforts du Secrétariat pour fournir à cette session du Conseil un projet de déclaration politique et un plan d'action qui constituent une bonne base de discussion. Nous notons que certains commentaires émis lors de la réunion du CSA, que je présidais moi-même, ont été heureusement inclus dans le document CL 108/12. Nous comprenons également que d'autres points substantiels seront élaborés dans les projets de texte finaux qui sont attendus pour fin 95.

En ce qui concerne la structure du document, je puis répéter ce qui a été dit en avril dernier: le format choisi pour la déclaration et le plan d'action paraît approprié aux objectifs. En ce qui concerne le contenu, je désirerais faire référence à quelques thèmes.

Tout d'abord, le thème de la coordination avec d'autres agences et institutions qui sont pertinentes et actives dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire est partiellement mentionné dans le document (paragraphe 26) qui fait référence à la coopération recherchée avec d'autres agences des Nations Unies pour la préparation de textes techniques et autres. Mais il nous semble également, comme l'a dit d'ailleurs le Ministre canadien, que la consultation des ONG et du secteur privé est importante. Nous espérons que cela constituera, en fait, le premier pas sur la voie d'une coopération élargie entre l'ensemble des donateurs internationaux, tant sur les aspects de formulation des politiques internationales qu'au niveau opérationnel. Nous croyons fermement, en effet, qu'une étroite coordination entre tous les donateurs, d'une part, et les pays récipiendaires, de l'autre, est nécessaire pour apporter des contributions substantielles aux objectifs de sécurité alimentaire. Ce processus devrait recouvrir notamment tant les thèmes politiques que les activités opérationnelles. Pour ce faire, nous vous serions reconnaissants de nous fournir vos observations au sujet des résultats que la FAO aurait obtenus d'une coordination institutionnelle récente, y compris avec l'IFPRI.

De notre côté, sur le plan européen, certaines étapes ont été franchies - et je fais allusion à ce que demandait le Directeur général concernant les politiques nationales. Nous avons fait des efforts pour augmenter notre coordination. En novembre dernier, le Conseil des Ministres du développement de l'Union européenne a adopté une résolution qui engage les Etats Membres et la Commission européenne à accroître la coordination en matière de sécurité alimentaire. Le texte souligne à nouveau l'importance d'objectifs à long terme en la matière tout en reconnaissant le besoin continu d'une assistance d'urgence.

Le paragraphe 17 du projet de déclaration se penche plus en détail sur le lien alimentation-population. Nous pensons que ce thème devrait être repris dans le plan d'action car il y a là un problème de responsabilité des Etats concernés. Cette remarque s'applique également à la question cruciale de l'"accès" à laquelle le paragraphe 19 fait référence en soulignant le lien entre faim et pauvreté; et je me souviens qu'au CAS, notamment, l'Ambassadeur du Brésil avait souligné ce point.

Ce lien devrait être approfondi dans le plan d'action. Cela montre qu'il y a également une responsabilité des pays concernés. Bien entendu, nous sommes entièrement d'accord pour souligner, dans un débat sur la sécurité alimentaire, l'importance de l'aspect approvisionnement de l'équation alimentaire et nous sommes persuadés que, pour la FAO et pour nous-mêmes, il s'agit du thème central - je souligne: du thème central -auquel l'Organisation s'adresse. Néanmoins, nous avons expliqué à diverses occasions le point de vue selon lequel les politiques qui s'adressent à la question de l'accès à l'alimentation à travers un accroissement des revenus des plus pauvres doit avoir la priorité. Nous espérons que ce point de vue pourra être inclus dans le plan d'action. Certaines conditions sont nécessaires à la réalisation de telles politiques. Bien entendu, il y a le problème de la croissance économique nationale qui, théoriquement, développe l'emploi et la stabilité politique, ce qui est indiqué dans le projet de plan d'action. Nous estimons aussi que les fractures sociales doivent être réduites par les modifications institutionnelles appropriées et que les paysans organisés en communautés doivent pouvoir faire valoir directement leurs intérêts dans les questions de sécurité alimentaire. La société dans son ensemble est concernée et nous souhaitons que cela soit bien souligné.

Parmi les suggestions que nous souhaitons faire à ce stade au sujet du plan d'action, nous voudrions que l'on examine s'il faut véritablement établir une distinction entre le développement d'une agriculture marchande et le développement rural. Il est vrai qu'il y a un côté multifonctionnel, comme l'a rappelé le délégué du Japon, à la reprise de l'agriculture. De notre point de vue, le développement d'une agriculture marchande est plutôt basé sur des principes économiques de prix, de demande et d'approvisionnement, comme d'autres secteurs de l'économie. Par contre, dans le cas du développement rural des zones marginales, d'autres critères devraient également être pris en compte tel le développement social et d'autres mesures qui permettraient le démarrage d'un processus graduel d'accroissement de l'orientation de l'agriculture traditionnelle vers une économie de marché.

En vue des préparations prévues pour le Sommet, nous nous attendons à ce qu'une série de versions révisées du projet de document politique et du plan d'action soit discutées selon les étapes définies par le Directeur général dans ses consultations avec les groupes régionaux, avant que l'événement n'ait lieu l'an prochain. C'est pourquoi je suis persuadé qu'il se présentera suffisamment d'occasions pour inclure, à un stade ultérieur, les observations et suggestions écrites que nous pourrions avoir sur de futurs projets de texte.

Mario MOYA PALENCIA (México): Señor Presidente, la delegación mexicana desea felicitar a la Secretaría de la FAO por el excelente documento preparado para este tema; consideramos que éste incluye diversos e importantes planteamientos realizados en el marco del reciente período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

En el umbral del siglo XXI consideramos también que el principal desafío que enfrenta la humanidad consiste en disminuir la pobreza y moderar las desigualdades que existen hacia y dentro de nuestras sociedades. Su persistencia no permite su pleno desarrollo como personas, ni el ejercicio pleno de sus facultades como ente social, ni el despliegue de sus capacidades individuales en el proceso productivo, educativo y cultural.

El hambre, señor Presidente, es la peor amenaza no bélica a la seguridad internacional. Es por ello que México apoya de manera decidida la oportuna propuesta del Director General de la FAO de llevar a cabo el próximo año una Cumbre Mundial de Alimentación. Confiamos en que un evento de esta naturaleza contribuirá tanto a concienciar a la población mundial sobre las dimensiones de la malnutrición en el planeta, como a que todos los actores asuman compromisos tendentes a garantizar la seguridad alimentaria de los que menos tienen, sobre todo en un momento en que es evidente la reducción de los recursos económicos destinados a la cooperación internacional.

Queremos resaltar el énfasis que el texto otorga a la disponibilidad y acceso a los alimentos como elemento clave de la seguridad en este campo. Lamentamos, sin embargo, el hecho de que no se haya considerado la importancia de los grupos vulnerables respecto a los objetivos de la Cumbre. A lo largo de los debates celebrados con anterioridad, diversas delegaciones, como la nuestra, hemos insistido en que los hombres y mujeres de la tercera edad también deben constituir grupos objetivos de atención especial. En esta línea, estimamos asimismo que las poblaciones indígenas, las mujeres embarazadas y los minusválidos deben ser contemplados con esta misma prioridad. México les otorga esta importancia y estimamos que un documento de carácter global como el que es objeto de discusión, los debe considerar con la misma relevancia.

Advertimos, por otro lado, que la vinculación de la seguridad alimentaria con los niveles de ingreso de las poblaciones, en concreto con el fenómeno de la pobreza, es abordado en la nueva versión del documento CL 108/12. No obstante, consideramos que ésta no es reflejada con el énfasis debido. Hemos señalado que el verdadero problema de la alimentación está más vinculado al acceso a los alimentos que a la disponibilidad de los mismos. No obstante lo anterior, somos conscientes que incluso fenómenos naturales como la sequía que sufre ahora mismo una parte de México, coinciden negativamente en los grupos humanos más desprotegidos y convierten la seguridad alimentaria en una peligrosa incertidumbre que merece también la solidaridad de países vecinos y amigos.

En este marco, si bien el texto recoge la preocupación de diversos países respecto a los sectores y elementos que deben contemplarse como aspectos intrínsecos de la seguridad alimentaria, creemos que éstos deben ser elaborados en mayor detalle y, a la vez, con un mayor énfasis. En especial mi delegación desea resaltar la importancia que para diversos países, como México, constituye el sector pesquero. La ganadería es otra importante fuente generadora de alimentos, que contribuye a garantizar la seguridad alimentaria de las poblaciones. Seguramente la incorporación de los indicadores ganaderos y pesqueros a los cerealeros y agrícolas dentro de la noción de seguridad alimentaria, daría más precisión y realismo a este importante concepto internacional.

En este contexto, deseamos resaltar algunos aspectos que consideramos serán clave para el buen éxito de la Cumbre. Estimamos que la participación gubernamental será decisiva en cuanto que corresponde a los gobiernos, como actores centrales de las políticas alimentarias nacionales, definir las líneas de acción para garantizar un debido acceso de todas sus poblaciones a los alimentos. No menos importante resulta, como hemos dicho, el papel de la cooperación internacional y, como acertadamente señala el documento, las actuales tendencias de globalización e interdependencia constituyen un marco que bien puede favorecer u obstaculizar las acciones en este sentido, pero que también puede obstaculizarlas como se vio en la difícil negociación de la Ronda Uruguay y en sus consecuencias sobre el encarecimiento de los alimentos.

No obstante, el compromiso de la seguridad alimentaria rebasa a los actores tradicionales. Creemos que las instituciones financieras internacionales deberán tener un papel significativo en estos esfuerzos. La creciente participación civil de la sociedad a través de organizaciones no gubernamentales auténticas debe constituir otra fuerza dinamizadora, al igual que los sectores social, académico y privado.

Por último, señor Presidente, en cuanto al aspecto de organización de la Cumbre, deseamos apoyar las propuestas de las delegaciones de Venezuela y Chile para que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial se constituya en el Comité Preparatorio de la Cumbre. Consideramos que la experiencia y la temática de dicho Comité, en el que participan todos los países miembros de la Organización, contribuirán al buen éxito del evento.

J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom): I want to try and respond very briefly, but I hope in a practical way to your injunction for guidance and ideas. As far as my delegation is concerned, Mr Chairman, there are two key issues here. The first one is the underlying policy framework which is set out in document CL 108/12; the second one is the arrangements, the organizational matters and the consultation process for taking the Summit forward.

On the first issue of policy framework, and as I said yesterday in the context of the Quebec Declaration, we are very pleased to commend this paper as a comprehensive and forward-looking policy document on food security. We welcome, in particular, the recognition it gives to the importance of the policy environment and of encouraging the role of the private sector and indeed others as key participants in the whole process.

We have three comments to make on the paper. The first one is that we feel that inadequate emphasis has been given to the importance of institution building to foster food security in recipient countries. We believe that this could be perhaps included as a specific point in paragraph 28 and also within the first principles and commitments in Part II of the paper. Secondly - and this is a question - is "food for all" the same as "food security"? Since "food security" is defined in Part I, perhaps it might be better to use this term rather than "food for all", which we think is slightly unclear in its meaning. Finally, in Part V of the paper in the second paragraph there is reference to the causes of famine. Since most famine is largely due to political factors, conflict and civil disturbance, it is difficult to see what role food aid or emergency preparedness would have in terms of prevention.

I would like to turn next, Mr Chairman, to the consultation process, the organizational arrangements. One element of that is the plan of action to which other speakers have referred. This is the area in which, it seems to us, FAO sets its goals and where at the end of the day one measures the outcome against those goals in order, we all hope, to make this an outstanding success. Whilst the proposed structure of the document as stated at the CFS is acceptable to us, we are slightly concerned that there are elements in Part II, the Plan of Action, which do not yet suggest strongly enough what the action plan is likely to encompass. As presently described, it seems to us to form only a further body of descriptive text with generalized issues. I therefore urge the Secretariat to put definitive draft action points to us at the earliest possible stage, which I imagine will be at the latest by the planned CFS meeting in January.

The other elements of the organizational arrangements are the consultation processes to which the Director-General referred yesterday. We strongly support his ideas on the full participation of all the other players in the international community, other UN agencies, IFIs, the private sector and NGOs. However, looking at the timetable and the arrangements, two questions arise in my mind as to how this consultation process will be taken forward effectively. There is not a lot of time. I note that after the CFS there will be the planned regional group meetings but my first question is, between those meetings, inter-sessionally, how do you engage the IFIs, the rest of the UN and the NGOs in a coherent and detailed dialogue which will ensure that at the end of the day all their contributions are in the process and are in the document? It seems to my delegation that it would be very risky indeed if, at the end of the day, the Bank, the Fund and the other players said, "We weren't really given enough time to make our inputs." I would urge that some mechanism be found to take that on board.

The idea proposed at the outset by the distinguished Delegate of Chile for a working group to take that forward seemed to me to be an excellent one. I endorse that principle. The other idea which we had on this question of engaging the international community and taking stock of where we are might be to organize a single-issue meeting here in which all the players, having gone through this consultative process during the course of the year, would then finalize their ideas and put them into the final documentation. It seems to me that such a process would be very useful indeed. I realize that it cannot be this Council because of its restricted membership but perhaps a special session of the CFS might be the way to do it. I put this forward as a proposal.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I want to say something about participation. The stated intention, as I understand it, is one of limiting participation at the final stage of the Summit events to Heads of State or Heads of Government. We remain very strongly of the view that it is a question for governments which representatives they send, be they Ministers or Heads of State. That is a very important principle in the universality of this Organization and I would like to underline that point. Thank you very much.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, distinguido delegado del Reino Unido. Tengo una duda. Cuando usted habló de la reunión extraordinaria del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial ¿se refería a una reunión en este año o en el año 1996, como lo propuso Chile? ¿En septiembre de 1996?

J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom): Before I heard the Delegate of Chile I was going to suggest that we needed an inter-sessional mechanism, which could meet as and when the Secretariat felt it was appropriate to do so, perhaps next year. My own feeling is that it would be a good idea to engage these agencies in that debate as early as possible, so it could possibly start meeting some time this year. All I wanted to flag was that, whatever mechanism is decided upon, there must be a system; it cannot be left to a conference in the autumn of next year. Something needs to be set in motion before then. Does that clarify the position?

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que es importante porque podría crearse una especie de consenso en este Consejo respecto de un mecanismo de este tipo. Les recuerdo de todas maneras que la reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria se va a celebrar en enero que, prácticamente, es al final de este año; a continuación de este año. Se celebrará la Cumbre y luego la Conferencia y éstos revisarán también los preparativos, o harán adiciones a los preparativos de la Cumbre. Se distribuirán los documentos con la base técnica, como lo he descrito en mi introducción, a finales de este año, para que puedan ser entregados a ustedes y vertir sus comentarios en la reunión del Comité.

Es importante que consideren ésto en sus debates.

Dato' Ahmad Zabri IBRAHIM (Malaysia): My Delegation wishes to join the Asia group in reaffirming our support and commitment to FAO in proposing to convene the World Food Summit in November 1996. The FAO decision is timely, as the Summit is long overdue. As we all recall, the last summit of this nature was the 1974 UN World Food Conference, in which 111 countries and numerous international organizations and NGOs participated. That conference was entrusted with developing ways and means by which the international community could take specific action to resolve the world food problem within the broader context of development and international economic cooperation. The World Food Conference of 1974 adopted the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, and 22 resolutions, including follow-up action, were passed. The follow-up action contains 16 elements, some of which are relevant even today, while others have been lost in a rapidly changing and dynamic world.

Among the many decisions made by that World Food Conference was the establishment of institutions recommended either as follow-up to or complementary to the vision of the World Food Conference: the Committee on World Food Security as a standing committee of the FAO Council; the International Fund for Agricultural Development; the Inter-Governmental Committee of the World Food Programme, later to become the CFA; a revival of the Commission on Fertilizers; the eventual setting up of the FAO Global Information and Early Warning Systems; and collaboration in research in food investment.

Mr Chairman, the 30 years since then have seen a lot of changes in the world on political, economic and social fronts. In the field of agriculture, in particular food production, events have led to these issues becoming politicized and monetized to such an extent that some countries are willing to downgrade it or keep it at maintenance level if it cannot contribute in real economic terms. In some countries which are blessed with bountiful rich arable land, food production has been progressive, technologically advanced and efficient and in others, where they have no capacity to choose their economies, and which are further burdened by dry and non-arable land and poor harvests, they experience under-nourishment and malnutrition. This does not take into consideration the natural and man-made disasters which further aggravate the agriculture and food situation in some of those regions.

The situation as regards hunger and under-nourishment is today about the same as it was 30 years ago. In 1974, 400 million people were under-nourished while today the figure is 800 million, and the world population has more than doubled during that period. How could this happen in view of the international focus on the problem, including the well-thought-of declaration and action plan?

My Delegation is of the opinion that agriculture, in particular food production, must be looked at in a balanced manner. Whilst it is wise to look at it taking into account economic, political and environmental considerations, it may also be wise to remember it is essential for the maintenance of human life. Agriculture and food production must have as its final goal the feeding of all the human beings in the world.

My Delegation believes that, in order to promote agriculture, in particular food production, as essential for maintenance of human life, it is necessary to include in the policy document on universal food security a philosophical statement which overrides other challenging situations. We suggest that this philosophical thrust must be along the lines of the rights and will of nations to produce food to feed their own people.

My Delegation supports the definition of food security as endorsed by the International Conference on Nutrition as "the state of affairs where all persons at all times have access to safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life". Thus, in order that nations large and small maintain the state of affairs espoused in this definition, they must be guided at all times by the philosophical thrust embodied in the idea of the rights and will of nations to produce food. Otherwise, they will have no means of defending themselves when subjected to economic, political and environmental arguments.

Allow me to comment on the policies for the agricultural and rural sector in the suggested policy document on universal food security. My Delegation agrees that the macro-economic policies which have proven to be conducive to sustaining progress towards food for all must be vigorously pursued. However, macro-economic policies sometimes have the economic objective of profit maximization. In a competitive environment it is impossible not to sacrifice some sectors for the benefit of others. In so doing, agriculture for food production is in many instances on the losing side and this may result in some nations having to rely heavily on food imports. If this state of affairs continues on a global basis there will be no net increase in food production. Given the growth rate of the world's population and the consequent demand for food, given the macro-economic policies of many countries which do not favour food production in their choice for economic growth, given that those nations that are efficient in food production and have surpluses need to consider the environmental consequences to their arable land, we suggest that the macro-economic policies of many nations need to be adjusted to favour food production.

Thus the element on policies for the agricultural/rural sector as a policy document for food security must reflect in clear terms this fact. My delegation proposes the addition of the word "production" after "food" in the first sentence of paragraph 21 of the text on "Plan of Action on Universal Food Security".

All nations thereby have the economic means to produce food. They must do so if they subscribe to the rights and will as a prime element of the Declaration on Food Security.

Mr Chairman, allow me now to touch on some aspects of the elements for a Plan of Action to achieve Universal Food Security. The road to Rome for the World Food Summit is the same as the road from Rome. My delegation believes that the road from Rome is much more difficult if appropriate steps are not taken from the start. The road from Rome eventually ends with the producers, whether big or small, having to mobilize their resources to produce food with a fair return on their investments. While acknowledging the fact that in some marginal and subsistence agriculture, the opportunity cost may be zero, those who need a fair return require the benefits of modern technologies at an affordable price along with other incentives.

While food production is firmly in the hands of small producers in many developing countries, it may be worthwhile to consider also the involvement of commercial enterprises if and when necessary. It will then be necessary to involve these parties in the preparation of the Plan of Action.

Mr Chairman, I have stated earlier that important structures which exist today as a result of the World Food Conference in 1974 are the international institutions and bodies who are meant to assist Member Nations. Although many achievements have been made since 1974, the world is still burdened by 800 million

undernourished people. At the same time food prices tend to be higher, making them inaccessible to a significant proportion of the national population.

My delegation feels the Declaration on Universal Food Security is clear enough. There is a need therefore to achieve the emphasis on the role of these institutions, including FAO, from that of policy advice to areas that fall within the scope of the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit. Technologies, investments, project studies, structural adjustments and size of farms, for example, could be more important areas that could be undertaken by these institutions and bodies.

Mr Chairman, my delegation recommends that the inclusion of the role of many international institutions dealing with agriculture and in particular food production be made explicit in the Plan of Action. While nations have commitments to the Declaration and the Plan of Action, it is necessary that these institutions' role complement the need of nations in meeting universal food security. Thus, if you are not going to get any new flow of funds and new institutions from the Summit, then the least we could derive would be the new roles relevant to the present situation.

Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany): The fact that today's Agenda Item 4 is discussed at the very beginning of this Council, and even way ahead of the difficult Budget issues, shows and underlines the importance the Preparation for the World Food Summit has for our Organization.

My delegation thanks the Director-General and the Secretariat, especially Mrs Killingsworth, for the manifold information we have received in various ways, officially and unofficially, on this important item. Transparency and open and frank dialogue in the preparatory process of the World Food Summit and openness for viable arrangements concerning the participation with the Summit itself are indeed indispensable if we want to achieve in November 1996 practical results and concrete harmonized steps in the direction of a more lasting food security.

We have carefully studied CL 108/12 and appreciate the notable improvement it contains in comparison to the previous version of this document, especially its Part I "Element of Policy Document". Part II is the Plan of Action which, in our view, contains mainly headlines and, as other delegations have said, needs more preparation on these annotations.

We also commend the effort of the Secretariat to reflect in the document the suggestions made by members of FAO during the last CFS session. In addition, as you said in the document, not all of them could have been fully accommodated. We trust this will be done in the future.

With this in mind, and associating myself with the statement made by France on a more general point on behalf of the European Union and Member States, I wish to make only a few technical remarks. On the explanatory note concerning format approach, regional focus and additional documents, on the Policy Documents and the Plan of Action Mr Chairman, let me first turn to the explanatory note. Concerning the format, paragraph 5 states that these principles would be complemented by the Plan of Action which would serve as a guide for both government and non-government sectors of civil society. I wonder why in the format remarks international organizations are not mentioned and, secondly, I would suggest it is made clear in the document that the outcome of the Summit serves also as a guidance to FAO which is not mentioned once explicitly in this document.

With regard to the approach we have noted in paragraphs 7 and 8 in the list of relevant conferences prior to the Summit that the 1994 conference on Population and Development is missing and I suggest therefore that this conference is also mentioned in paragraph 7 and adequate references to its conclusions are made later in paragraph 33 of Part II of the document. The approach outlined in paragraph 7 and paragraph 8 should refer, in our view, more clearly to the need for a concrete follow-up which includes also a monitoring process.

Finally, in this context we would also like to suggest that the Policy Document and especially, the Plan of Action, are brought after 1996 to the attention of ECOSOC in order to invite the United Nations Agencies to integrate the Plan of Action into their programmes.

Paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Note mentions rightly the importance of the regional focus. We would like to raise the question here of where and how regional and sub-regional differences and problems are taken care of finally in the Plan of Action. In our view, it would certainly not be sufficient to include regional and sub-regional programmes and actions only in an appendix of Part II of the Document.

As already mentioned during the CFS my delegation considers it helpful that the Secretariat prepares its views on these regional problems and special measures in the documents which we will have before us before the Regional Conference starts in 1996 as it would otherwise be difficult to structure these Regional Conferences in the most constructive way.

Now to the Policy Document: in our view the section on the meaning "Food Security" should also make reference to the need for consensus on measurements of food security improvement or decline. Measurement criteria for this could also focus on indicators on nutritional welfare and actual food consumption.

Under the headline in paragraph 20 which reads "the need for action", important challenges are addressed. It seemed to us essential to stress in the document that these challenges must be tackled by the decision-makers in developing and developed countries and international organizations alike. The idea of partnership should be stressed in many parts of the document.

Paragraphs 21 and 22 mentioned "policies for the agricultural/rural sector". The element of "good governance" which was contained in the proceeding document CFS 95/4 has now disappeared and we think it should be retained and further outlined.

Like others, we consider "empowerment of women" in the development process is an issue which is decisive for progress in the field of food security.

With regard to the "Commitment to Action" contained in paragraphs 27 and 28, we feel that the set of nine headlines is generally well done. We would, however, like to suggest that an additional headline dealing with the issue of population growth be added. The growth of population continues to lead not only to increasing food requirements but also to increasing pressure on the natural environment. The document must be complete when read by outsiders of the Organization. It must have impact on public opinion and the issue of population has to be clearly dealt with even knowing that it is not the direct mandate of this Organization. The commitment to action should clearly draw attention to the need for assurance of future generations' food security.

Mr Chairman, I have some final short remarks on the Plan of Action. I have already said we welcome in principle the proposed set of nine headings. Referring to Principle III, however, we would like to ask for a slight correction in line two of the headline by replacing the word "equity" with "equality". Several NGOs in my country have already mentioned this point and we must expect pressure on this point during the Summit.

Finally, we are of the opinion that the Plan of Action should have a separate section at the end and, as I said before, it should have a concrete follow-up and a monitoring process for the World Food Summit in order to fulfil its purpose, that is, securing concrete and lasting results.

Nahi SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Sir. My delegation has examined in depth all the documents on food security and the World Food Summit to be held next year. We have perceived the great interest accorded to the subject by all those who have participated in the preparation, discussion, or the formulation of the documents. This was indeed crowned by the statement made yesterday by the Director-General, his introductory statement, actually, when he talked with interest and objectivity in an attempt to arrive at viable solutions with a view to eradicating hunger from our planet, the earth.

All the documents have contained varying ideas and measures which would contribute to the eradication of hunger, and we actually support all the ideas contained therein. From the very beginning my country has supported the convening of the World Food Summit, hoping that it will have a great success. At this juncture allow me to stress some legal, technical and procedural aspects which should be covered by the document, with a view to heeding the wishes of various delegations to eradicate hunger.

The points are the following: First, the right of man to life is a sacred right for all peoples. "Mankind" means what it means, namely cooperation between the members of the international community in their common life. On that basis we believe that the declaration should include a legal reference, a clear legal reference in order to reinforce the right of those who suffer from hunger to receive assistance and aid. Second, eradication of hunger, must be achieved through targeted measures and actions, by tackling its root causes, including the lack of resources, low potential areas with their low productivity, the lack of resources for investment, and the lack of technologies, among other elements. On the basis of the aforementioned, our tackling of the issue must be based on the preparation of projects that would contribute to a large extent to the eradication of hunger. Third, most of the poor countries possess renewable energies at low cost. Our tackling of the issue should include the development of the use of such resources with a view to reducing costs and achieving sustainable development. Fourth, the applicable economic and political order in the world facilitates the flows of capital for investments from some countries to others more than it creates employment for the poor outside their national territories. In order to eradicate hunger, we have to allow the famished and the hungry to seek employment opportunities outside their countries. Consequently, we believe that the decisions to be adopted must include the right to movement on the basis of "let him pass", "let him work". We welcome all the headlines included in the plan of action while recognizing their importance and the importance of their relevant formulation. Thank you, Sir.

Kevin O'BRIEN (Australia): Thank you, Mr Chairman. While it is not possible at this early stage for us to give any indication of likely participation in the World Food Summit and we would wish to be associated with the comments of the distinguished delegates of Japan and the United Kingdom in this regard, we hope that we can rise to the challenge you set for us this morning to consider new and more fundamental and comprehensive ways to take this matter forward and to make some observations on the documents before us that contribute constructively to this debate.

Australia believes that the issue of food security, which delegations have pointed out affect each of us in different ways and in different forms, is nothing short of a life-and-death matter for many peoples of the world. We recognize the importance and immediacy of this challenge and the need for concerted international action to take this matter forward. We are, therefore, pleased to give our "in principle" support to the Director-General's proposal to hold the World Food Summit in November next year. We have appreciated the opportunity to participate in the discussions on the proposed Summit at the Committee on Food Security and the consideration of the paper prepared by the Secretariat on elements for possible inclusion in a draft policy document and plan of action on universal food security.

Indeed, we fully support the calls made by other delegations for us to be forward looking and comprehensive in our approach to this issue, not to look backwards or to dwell on the rhetoric of the past used to justify inappropriate policy settings or approaches, but to move forward across a wide canvas to allow the many detailed and complex considerations involved in this urgent matter to be progressed in a positive and constructive way.

This we believe the Elements Paper attempts to do. It reaffirms the concept of food security endorsed by the International Conference on Nutrition, which, as the Malaysian delegate has mentioned, refers to the situation where all persons at all times - and I would underline the word "all" in both cases - where all persons at all times have access to safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. This accords fully with our view that food security considerations must be capable of being addressed and progressed in all countries right down to the individual household level.

Importantly, the Elements Paper highlights the central link between hunger and poverty, which makes the question of access and availability of food so crucial. As I mentioned in my remarks yesterday, the Committee on Food Security has recognized that poverty and malnutrition are not just food-production or food-supply questions that can only be satisfactorily addressed when the full range of factors affecting economic development, environmentally sustainable growth, political stability, and social equity considerations are taken into account.

This means, quite simply, that individual countries must be able to create the capacity, and less developed and low-income food-deficit countries must be given the opportunity as well as the necessary support and guidance

from the international community, to tackle the issues of poverty and malnutrition within their own regions. Solutions cannot be imposed from the outside; nor can they be addressed in isolation. This is an enormous task, but one that neither we nor any other countries concerned can afford to overlook.

The Elements Paper helps to point the way. It recognizes the critical linkages that exist between food security concerns and sustainable agricultural practices, between security concerns and the development of appropriate macro- and micro-level economic policy settings, the linkages that exist with trade and trade liberalization measures to permit both greater access to capital, equipment, technology, infrastructure development and marketing expertise but also to create the necessary legal, regulatory and political framework to encourage and guarantee the level of investment required to sustain and indeed, in some cases, to begin the process of nation building.

These are some of the considerations underlying the concept of self-reliance in the Elements Paper. To help to take this process forward, we would like to make what we hope are some constructive suggestions in preparing for the Summit. We would like to see these concepts of food security and self-reliance reflected more consistently in the various technical and other papers being prepared for this Summit and, indeed, in the many committee and programme-level activities of FAO over the next 18 months, to give greater coherence to this work and to ensure it contributes to making the Summit a complete success.

We also believe we need to update our thinking on the nature and the problems and the new directions required to tackle these issues of poverty and malnutrition. As I said yesterday, many of the traditional yardsticks we tend to use for making assessments of food security are now less appropriate in terms of identifying appropriate policy solutions for individual countries. We work too much in aggregate in terms of looking at total production figures, world cereal prices, international stock levels. These are not particularly helpful for national policy prescriptions to address food security concerns right down to the individual household level.

We too readily fall into the trap of equating greater food security with greater production or argue about the priority for national output regardless of the wider considerations involved. We tend to concentrate on short-term difficulties rather than longer-term opportunities, or rather to assume that the policy prescriptions required are the same in each case. We all recognize the need for continual technological development and growth but we tend to examine the issue of food security in a highly inflexible and static way. Where is the guidance to countries genuinely interested in tackling these issues to create the conditions for constant structural change and improvement within their own economies?

These are not concepts that come easily to all countries in the area of food and agriculture. We believe that FAO has an important role to play in advising governments how best to tackle the issue of poverty and malnutrition within their own jurisdictions. We need to be able to show that economic development, wealth creation, environmentally responsible growth and trade liberalization are different sides of the same concern - to create the fundamental framework necessary within each country to be able to address their most basic of human needs in a long-term sustainable manner.

We believe it is important for FAO to continue its work aimed at encouraging countries to adopt more appropriate policy settings that will facilitate long-term economic growth and agricultural development, and to identify and implement more appropriate risk management strategies based on the concept of self-reliance. We also believe that it is important to aim to remove impediments to growth at all stages of the agri-food chain and in associated industries and to free up domestic and international markets for capital goods and services to allow countries, especially least developed and low-income food-importing countries, to address their food security concerns.

FAO also has an important task in assisting these countries initially to come to terms with, and then to take full advantage of, the opportunities for growth and development provided by the Uruguay Round. This will be particularly important as the pace of international agricultural reform gathers momentum. In each of these areas that I have mentioned, Mr Chairman, we would like to see some focus in the preparations for the Summit.

Mr Chairman, I have spoken at some length only because Australia believes that the issues of food security and malnutrition are too fundamental to be tackled in a piecemeal and unstructured way. They come to the

very heart of what FAO is about. In our view they cannot be separated from any one area of FAO activity or the work of any one committee. This is a challenge that affects each and every one of our countries, albeit in different ways. It is not possible to say that this is either a food security issue or some other issue, or that this concern affects one region of the globe and not another. These concerns should give renewed focus and direction to the full range of activities that FAO will undertake in future years. It is a charter for the FAO to be able to re-invent itself, within available resources, to achieve its fundamental goals.

We would encourage all delegates to recognize the breadth and scope of the issues before us and to give their full support to the process that the Director-General has begun leading up to the World Food Summit in November 1996.

James W. SCHROEDER (United States of America): The United States is encouraged by advances made in defining the specific modalities and focus of the proposed Summit. Document CL 108/12 is, in our view, substantially improved from the document considered at the CFS. We felt that the CFS advanced the state of preparations for the Summit, and anticipate that members' suggestions at this Council will also make a further contribution. We are hopeful that with continued commitment by all parties we can agree on a framework for the Summit which will assure a productive outcome. We believe that an inter-sessional mechanism proposed by other speakers this morning might contribute greatly to this effort.

With respect to the Summit, we particularly want to stress the Committee's conclusions which have already been summarized by the Chairman.

The US delegation believes that the Summit Agenda should promote strategies that emphasize policies of developing countries which stress reliance on free markets, facilitate household food security, mobilize both domestic and foreign private investment, and, where needed, attract donor assistance.

In addition, we believe with our colleagues from the UK and Germany and other speakers, the Plan of Action section of the document still needs strengthening and refinement. One possible way to accomplish this would be to deal with each of the elements in four stages: (1) What action is involved and by whom? (2) How does it contribute to food security? (3) What are the expected results? and (4) Who will monitor and be held accountable for the actions to be taken?

We look forward to working with the FAO Secretariat as plans for the Summit are refined. We strongly support the target in document CL 108/12 of having all papers available one year prior to the Summit. However, we have been concerned and perplexed at the conflicting information which has been forthcoming about the nature and availability of the technical papers. In addition, we think it would be useful if clarification could be given as to how the papers correlate with the topics covered in the draft policy document and plan of action. We would also request that future documents on the Summit be made available in a more timely fashion to enable all members to properly prepare for these discussions.

In planning for the Summit, the Director-General stressed using existing meetings to prepare for this event. In this regard, we view the upcoming Canadian-hosted meeting in Quebec, tied to the commemoration of FAO's Fiftieth Anniversary, as the foundation for the Summit process. The declaration, the symposium, the ministerial discussions, should clarify our thinking on these key issues, including consideration of how people can best ensure their food security and how to channel and promote investment in sustainable food security strategies. Thus, we go a long way towards building a global food security strategy by preparing a successful meeting in Quebec.

Returning to CL 108/12, we strongly concur in the approach defined in paragraph 7 to avoid lengthening the text and reopening debates which have led to agreements in other fora. Two agreements which should be included in the list of the particularly relevant are the Uruguay Round of the GATT and the Convention on International Plant Genetic Resources. This same point applies in the context of the Plan of Action referred to in paragraph 33.

Paragraph 9 rightly refers to the importance of regional and sub-regional focuses. This should be expanded to include a national-level focus as well - a point endorsed in the CFS Report.

Paragraph 17 on the "Food/Population Nexus" should also include the competing forces of urbanization and environmental sustainability.

Paragraph 18 on "Threats to National and International Security" is an important one in my delegation's view and deserves particular emphasis.

In paragraph 20, we would suggest substituting "most optimistic" for "likely" in the sentence characterizing the impact of national population policies.

We feel that paragraph 28 in the "Commitment to Action" section needs to be stronger and should indicate how each of the elements contributes to the main goal of food security for all.

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for the opportunity to express our views on this important topic. We look forward to an open and productive debate on these issues.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos tomado nota de que enviará un texto que se incluirá en las actas de los procesos sobre este tema.

Aguilando LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation se réjouit de vous voir présider à nouveau les travaux du Conseil et félicite les autres membres du Bureau de leur élection.

L'ordre du jour de cette session est plein de points extrêmement importants pour notre Organisation et pour l'avenir de l'ensemble de nos pays et de l'humanité. Le souci de produire assez pour nourrir le monde et de garantir l'accès à la nourriture en quantité et en qualité à tous les habitants de la planète ressort de l'ensemble des documents qui ont été soumis à notre appréciation, et je félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité et la profondeur des analyses.

Je ne cesserai de me référer à la lucidité et à la clairvoyance dont a fait preuve le Directeur général dans la ligne des préoccupations déjà annoncées avant son élection, en proposant la réalisation d'un Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, étant donné l'ampleur de la problématique de l'insécurité alimentaire et les douloureuses interrogations qui pèsent sur l'avenir, si des mesures pertinentes ne sont pas prises dès aujourd'hui, dans le cadre de la lutte contre la pauvreté et le sous-développement.

L'approche proposée tant pour la Déclaration que pour le Plan d'action, qui tiendra en considération les recommandations du CSA, du présent Conseil, de la réunion ministérielle de Québec et de la Conférence de la FAO et fera rappel aux principes et conclusions de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, à la Déclaration universelle pour l'élimination définitive de la faim et de la malnutrition, à la CNUED et à la CIN, au Sommet mondial sur le développement social et de la Conférence mondiale sur les femmes. Cette approche mérite l'appui de ma délégation.

Ma délégation est également d'avis que les éléments proposés pour la déclaration et le plan d'action, ainsi que pour les documents techniques d'appui, constituent une excellente base de travail et permettent d'entrevoir des documents finals équilibrés, riches, exhaustifs et qui nous engageront tous, riches et pauvres, Nord et Sud, Gouvernements et Associations non gouvernementales, Organisations intergouvernementales et ONG, institutions financières et secteurs privés, instituts de recherche et organes d'information dans un vrai pacte de partenariat et de solidarité, dans une action commune qui est d'assurer de la nourriture pour tous de façon durable.

Le renvoi du Sommet à novembre 1996, donc après les conférences régionales, facilitera la prise en considération des composantes régionales et nationales dans la préparation des documents. Cela est particulièrement important pour le continent africain. En effet, en Afrique subsaharienne mais aussi en Afrique du Nord, la production d'aliments de base par habitant a baissé et des déficits de disponibilité alimentaire ont été enregistrés dans beaucoup de pays; et les prévisions pour 1995-96 sont loin d'être optimistes.

Au Cap-Vert, petit pays insulaire et sahélien qui subit les conséquences d'une pénible sécheresse, le Gouvernement, au travers de la Commission nationale de sécurité alimentaire, suit avec grande attention la situation actuelle, les tendances et perspectives de la sécurité alimentaire. Dans le contexte de ces préoccupations, le 19 de ce mois aura lieu à Genève une Table Ronde des partenaires du développement du Cap-Vert, sur le thème "Stratégie de sécurité alimentaire et gestion de l'aide alimentaire".

Pour terminer je voudrais encore une fois réitérer tout le soutien du Gouvernement et des plus hautes autorités de mon pays à l'heureuse initiative de la convocation du Sommet sur l'alimentation et au processus de sa préparation, et appuyer la proposition tendant à adopter, lors de la prochaine réunion de la Conférence de la FAO, une résolution qui considère l'opportunité et la pertinence de la convocation d'un Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation et qui invite les Etats Membres à y participer au plus haut niveau.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): My country's delegation wishes to reassert its position supporting the initiative of the Director-General's regards for holding the World Food Summit. Let us tell you we wish to stress our pleasure with the boost given to this initiative, in a number of different fora, including the African Heads of State Summit, the Islamic Heads of State Summit, and the Foreign Ministers of the Non-aligned Countries Meeting, and a number of other ministerial meetings of regional and international nature.

I refer to the Regional Conferences of FAO itself, and I refer to the personal support expressed by a number of heads of government as the Director-General pointed out in his introduction yesterday morning. Obviously the official decision to hold such a Summit has to be taken at the coming FAO Conference. We welcome the information provided on the world food situation and the very worrying outlook as regards to the future of the food situation and food security in the world. These are all causes which would cause us to enthusiastically support this initiative in order to arouse international awareness, and to coordinate the efforts being made internationally in order to improve the deteriorating situation which is affecting an increasing number of our peoples.

Since the last Council Session, again during this Session and during the last meeting of the CFS, and a number of other regular meetings, we all did our best to make a contribution to the preparation which would lead to the Summit; scrutiny of the documents before us shows this. We would also like to welcome the Secretariat's work and congratulate them on this. We think the Secretariat have done a splendid job in order to pave the way for this Summit in the best possible conditions. We welcome the very wise and cautious use of available funding within the Organization. We think, in particular, of the coming Session of the CFS which is foreseen for January of next year and the Regional Conferences which will be held between March and July next year; and the various other conferences of other nature which will provide us with a series of opportunities in order to polish the preparations for this World Food Summit. This indeed will enable us to keep to a minimum the cost of preparing such a Summit as compared to what we have seen with other international conferences and summits organized.

We therefore welcome the proposal made by Chile that we have another special session of the CFS in September next year in order to put a final touch to the documents being prepared. We welcome the amendments made by the Secretariat to the document we discussed at the last meeting of the CFS. They duly take into account the contributions made by Members of the Committee at that meeting.

We are particularly pleased to note the first part of the document concerning agricultural policy and the nine principles which are listed under the Plan of Action. It goes without saying, of course, that there is room for further polishing and improvement in these documents. No-one would doubt the ability of the focal points which have been set up in a number of member countries, including my own, in preparation for the Summit and there is no denying that they will make an effective contribution to the preparation and the finalization of the documents as well as the need to take into account the contributions made by the delegate of Germany who took the floor earlier and stressed a point which we think is of great importance, i.e., the fact that there is no mention so far of the Population Conference which was held in Cairo and the results yielded by that Conference. I am sure that the Secretariat will take that into account in the future.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): I will be very brief. On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, first of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Director-General of FAO for his excellent idea and initiative to convene the World Food Summit in 1996 and also appreciate very much the Secretariat for the comprehensive document before us, CL 108/10 and CL 108/12.

In the preparation for the World Food Summit, November 1996, the Indonesian Government as the Chairman of the Non Aligned Movement can go along with other Members of the Council in supporting and approving the FAO proposal to convene the World Food Summit in November 1996 because this is in line with the Resolution on Food Security of the Heads of State or Government at the Tenth Conference of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1 to 6 September 1992. Therefore, the Conference of the Ministers of Food and Agriculture of the NAM and Other Developing Countries on Food Security held in Bali, Indonesia, October 1994 has supported the Director-General's proposal to convene the World Food Summit in 1996 as a means of promoting cooperation and formulating a food security action programme, sustainable economic growth and sustainable development in developing countries for the next decade and beyond. The Ministers in that meeting requested all NAM Members and Other Developing Countries to participate actively in the coming World Food Summit and to hold a preparatory meeting of the NAM Ministers of Agriculture to make a success of it.

In this context, the Indonesian delegation associates itself with other speakers and the Committee on World Food Security in supporting the Draft Declaration and Plan of Action on Universal Food Security with some improvement on the text and the need of inclusion of the Bali Declaration on Food Security of the NAM and other Developing Countries, especially regarding the right to food as a fundamental human right and categorically reject the use of food as an instrument of political and economic pressure, and it should stress that each government has a prime responsibility to protect and promote the food security of its people. It should stress that such efforts on the part of Low-Income Food Deficit Countries should have the support of the international community as a whole and urge that the LIFDCs should accord food security first priority in their national development programme.

It should also stress that mobilizing investment for food security programmes, including joint venture projects and other non-traditional sources of finance to ensure food security and nutritional improvement in developing countries, is crucially needed and urges all countries to support FAO and other related organizations in implementing development programmes on food production in support of food security in food deficit countries.

Mr Chairman, finally, in the Plan of Action we should learn from each other from past experiences. We must draw a lesson from the experience of other nations which have succeeded in overcoming the problem of food supply for their peoples. With a view to sharing its experiences, Indonesia has also, within its limited capabilities, established technical cooperation in the area of food production with a number of developing countries.

In this regard, Indonesia has offered some training programmes in the field of agriculture. Developing countries in the Asia Pacific region, Africa and Latin America have shown their interest in the offers. Indonesia has also carried out apprenticeship programmes where farmers from Africa such as the Gambia, Tanzania, Senegal and Madagascar and from the Pacific such as Papua New Guinea have taken part in this programme. We will continue to offer this kind of cooperation because there are continued requests from other fellow members of the Non-Aligned Movement and other developing countries. Due to the limited financial support from both sides concerned, therefore, we invite donor countries and international agencies to support this programme through a tripartite cooperation scheme.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Como ya han señalado otros oradores, señor Presidente, mi delegación considera que el documento CL 108/12 es un punto de partida totalmente válido para abordar tanto los aspectos normativos como el plan de acción relativo a la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Incluso, como se ha indicado en la declaración hecha por Francia en nombre de la Unión Europea y sus estados miembros, el esquema elegido creemos que es apropiado para alcanzar los objetivos que se pretenden.

No obstante, señor Presidente, permítanos ocupar unos pocos minutos para exponer algunos aspectos que pensamos pueden ayudar a completar el panorama que cubre el documento CL 108/12 y que entendemos que no están explícitamente recogidos en el mismo.

En gran medida el documento aludido lleva al lector, inconscientemente, a enfrentarse exclusivamente con los graves problemas existentes en ciertas partes del mundo donde el hambre es problema vital, problemas a los que hay que dedicar, obviamente, esfuerzos sin límite. Pero la seguridad alimentaria tiene aspectos cualitativos, aspectos coyunturales, etc., que también afectan a lugares del mundo que no están en esa dramática situación. Creemos que tanto el futuro documento normativo como el plan de acción deben referirse con claridad y diferenciadamente a ambas situaciones.

Muy en línea con esta reflexión se encuentra una idea que nuestra delegación ha introducido en varias ocasiones en este foro. La condición de la FAO como centro de excelencia se evidenciará si es capaz de incluir, tanto en el documento normativo como en el plan de acción, indicaciones y sugerencias válidas para que los centros de investigación tengan claro el objetivo de hacer compatible la intensificación de la producción agrícola con la preocupación mundial sobre la sostenibilidad ambiental. Ambas necesidades quedan recogidas en el párrafo 17 del documento, pero de forma separada y presentadas casi como antagónicas. El éxito será conseguir el equilibrio conveniente para que las acciones a emprender, contenidas en el plan de acción, no decanten el resultado ni en uno ni en otro sentido.

Queremos también, señor Presidente, insistir en el contenido del párrafo 20 del documento CL 108/12. El compromiso moral de la FAO en seguridad alimentaria entendemos que debe abarcar a "todos" los habitantes del planeta, admitiendo que otros foros van a indicar cuántos son los referidos habitantes en virtud del crecimiento demográfico futuro. Los movimientos demográficos, sus causas y las políticas nacionales adoptadas en tal sentido deberán ser para la FAO exclusivamente un punto de partida.

Entendemos, señor Presidente, que uno de los posibles éxitos del trabajo que en este momento estamos empezando a preparar entre todos, deberá llevarnos a conseguir no sólo que la agricultura, la actividad forestal y la pesca sean consideradas como una contribución estratégica, sino que tales actividades salgan dignificadas, e incluso magnificadas, como actividades básicas por su entronque con la supervivencia de la población humana.

Pasando a otro aspecto, señor Presidente, creemos totalmente imprescindible que además de figurar alguna referencia en la parte declarativa, debe existir un documento técnico, entre los que se manejen en la Cumbre, que analice de forma completa y sincera los esfuerzos económicos que el mundo, tanto de forma bilateral como multilateral, está haciendo en esta dirección. Tenemos una gran duda sobre la eficacia de este esfuerzo. Es muy probable que un estudio metodológicamente bien estructurado nos pueda permitir afirmar, como decimos en nuestro país "no nos salen las cuentas". Los esfuerzos económicos que los países, las instituciones, las organizaciones no gubernamentales están haciendo en programas y en proyectos de desarrollo, y en concreto en la mejora de la producción alimentaria *in situ* con el propósito de reducir el hambre y la pobreza no son suficientes, con toda seguridad, pero sí son elevados. Este examen de conciencia lo estimamos imprescindible para no sólo hacer más sino mejor las cosas.

No podemos dejar de mencionar, señor Presidente, la reunión que tuvo lugar en la ciudad española de Barcelona, en la que participó la propia FAO, en 1992, y que dio lugar a la denominada "Declaración de Barcelona" que manifiesta, como principio básico "que el derecho a una alimentación suficiente, sana y de calidad adecuada para cubrir las necesidades de todo ser humano a lo largo de su vida es, por razones obvias, uno de los derechos fundamentales". El contenido de este documento y sus ideas deben tenerse en cuenta por su claridad y adecuación al tema que nos ocupa. En el punto 7 del documento que analizamos, CL 108/12, no figura esta referencia que, creemos, al ser incluida, ayudará, sin lugar a dudas, de forma muy eficaz a fijar criterios y encontrar soluciones.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, queremos indicar que la inquietud que nuestro país y nuestro gobierno tiene en este tema se ha cristalizado con la creación de una pequeña pero ágil estructura nacional que pretende coordinar los esfuerzos que desde distintos puntos se están empezando a hacer. Dentro de nuestro propio Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, se ha encargado a una unidad que sea el centro de enlace con otros ministerios interesados en el tema, entre los que están Asuntos Exteriores, Economía y Sanidad; con la Universidad como centro de investigación, con las organizaciones no gubernamentales que trabajan en estos

aspectos e igualmente con el sector privado. Lógicamente, tales organismos y unidades han recibido ya la documentación que ha empezado a distribuir la propia FAO como documentos básicos y primeros para su reflexión, estudio y comentario.

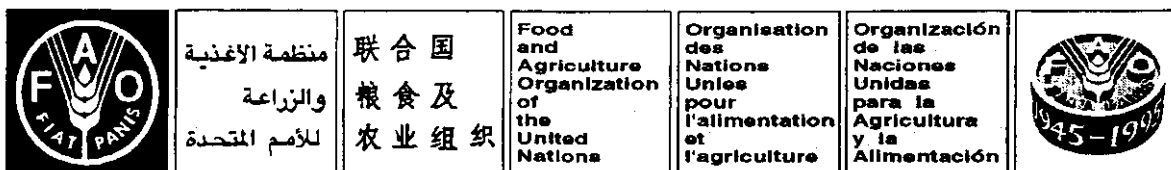
EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de España. Me complace que haya mencionado, entre otras cosas, la declaración de Barcelona, donde tanto el señor Director General como yo, participamos.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 50.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas.

6 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108º período de sesiones

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENTERE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

6 June 1995

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

4. Preparation for the World Food Summit (continued)

4. Préparatifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation

4. Preparativos para la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (continuación)

Mrs Maria KADLECIKOVA (Slovakia): Distinguished delegates, let me deliver our contribution on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries. The eradication of hunger, malnutrition, and the achievement of food security in the world represents supreme commitment of the international community at the end of the second millennium. In spite of mankind's generous intentions but also practical undertakings by many countries and the relevant organizations, the substance and magnitude of the hunger and malnutrition are always the same.

It is frustrating that every eight seconds a child is dying in this world. For this reason Central and Eastern European countries are generally in support of the decision to convene the World Food Summit. The intention to support the convocation of the Summit has already been expressed at the Ministry of Consultation on Agricultural Policy and Reforms in the Central and Eastern European Economies in Transition held in Warsaw in the September of 1994.

Our commitment to support the Summit stems from the assessment of the global situation in food security as 88 nations fall into the category of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. However, it should be emphasized that Central and Eastern European countries, at the present stage of transition, are facing food security problems as well. This is particularly visible in the countries which suffer wars and civil conflict. Some governments have adopted their own concept of food security.

It is obvious that the problems of food security in our part of the world have a different face than in the most affected countries. In all documents for the Summit, it should be noted that world food security has not only commanded quantitative features but qualitative as well. It is well known that the production ability of our food and agriculture sectors is already high and should grow farther in the framework of sustainable development. In spite of this, qualitative aspect of the food consumption represents serious problems of the human nutrition.

Therefore, associating ourselves with the position of the European Union on this issue, we welcome the conclusions of the 20th session of the Committee on World Food Security, which recognized that food insecurity and malnutrition were not only food supply problems but also demand problems requiring ultimately poverty alleviation and social equity.

In anticipation of full documentation of the World Food Summit, I shall make a few preliminary remarks. The Summit process must be action-oriented, consolidate FAO's universal mandate, particularly during the Quebec Conference, be integrated with regular FAO activities, and focus ultimately on the regional and sub-regional levels of cooperation.

In this context it should be pointed out that the last FAO General Conference as well as successive sessions of the FAO Council emphasized that economic and social problems of transition in the Central and Eastern European countries should be given high priority in the regional policy of the Organization. Having recalled this, Central and Eastern European countries expect that their specific problems of food security will receive appropriate attention in the preparatory process as well as actions of the World Food Summit itself. This is the best way to ensure other involvement in the implementation of the programme activities to be adopted by the Summit. Mr Chairman, I thank you for your attention.

CONGMENG LIU (China) (Original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, the Chinese delegation wishes to say a few words regarding the World Food Summit. We are celebrating this year the 50th Anniversary of the founding of FAO and in the ensuing period a great deal of successes have been scored. But, of course, to continue along these lines, we must have, continuing efforts. The task of eliminating hunger and malnutrition

has not yet been fully completed and it's estimated that in the year 2010 there will still be 730 million people who are undernourished. Hence this World Food Summit proposed by the Director-General comes at a very timely moment indeed.

The Chinese Government, from the very inception of this idea, has consistently supported the convening of this Summit and will continue to lend its support thereto. And we shall make our contribution to all the preparatory activities leading up to the Summit, and we hope that the success of the World Food Summit will contribute to achieving sustainable food security on a universal basis.

Having said this, Mr Chairman, I would like to address the document CL 108/12 more specifically. Firstly, the Chinese delegation can agree with the approach spelt out in paragraph 7, namely that we should refer back to the various commitments that have been made at different international fora and activities. We think this is a practical approach; and as you know, this year the fourth World Conference on Women will take place in Beijing and the theme of the contribution of women to world development will be very important and will be discussed there.

It is important to stress women's involvement in decision-making, women's contribution to overall cooperation, and other issues as well should be focused upon, and the role to be played by women in socioeconomic development in the rural world is very important. This is one of the aspects that we are focusing on in preparing for a successful World Conference on Women, and we were very pleased indeed to learn that Mr Diouf, the FAO Director-General, will be participating in the World Conference on Women, and the Chinese Government extends a most cordial welcome to him for that meeting.

Secondly, turning now to paragraph 17, which talks about the relationship between food availability and population growth: now, of course, as the population grows, there will be less land available per capita.

We in China have taken very strict measures to protect arable land. In order to satisfy the cereal requirements of our population, the Chinese Government has adopted measures to rehabilitate certain mountainous land. For example, in the sphere of world food security we think that it is very important to reduce post-harvest losses, and we must strengthen buffer stocks and the maintenance and storage of cereals and grains is very important as well, so as to keep them from being subject to perishing.

Turning to paragraph 19, it talks about reaffirming the concept of food security. We can concur with the use of that concept and my delegation feels it is necessary to have a clear understanding of what is entailed by food security. It must include the two aspects that are indicated in the paragraph. First of all, there must be a reliable, sustainable supply of food, and all inhabitants should have access to healthy, nourishing foodstuffs. What this boils down to is providing for the food requirements of the population, so we have to focus not only on production but also on meeting the grain requirements of the population. This is the way we construe the concept of food security.

In developing means of production, we think that it is also important to provide job opportunities so that the population can increase salaries, have more disposable income and thus the population will be better nourished and it will be possible to alleviate poverty.

Turning now to paragraph 21, I think here we have to stress the important role played by small industries which are developing apace in China. This provides jobs so that the rural population has a higher income and this can contribute to the overall economic development of the country and provides economies of skill as well. At the same time, this is one means of curbing rural exodus if you can develop local small industries.

Turning now to the Plan of Action, the Chinese delegation can concur with the contents spelled out in the document regarding the Plan of Action. We believe that the best possible conditions should be provided for the development of agriculture, that is to say, political stability and good macro-economic circumstances, so as to increase the availability of agricultural input and to improve the scientific level of agriculture. Clearly such measures are critical to the development of agriculture. In China, agricultural reform set out to make sure that there would be a stable policy. In particular, there must be a continuous supply of inputs that the population can rely on, and scientific and technological developments and state of the art developments have been brought on line in our agricultural activities.

Under paragraph II, it talks about creating appropriate political and macro-economic conditions to foster food security. In this respect, we deem it very important to underscore the role played by agriculture in the overall economy of each country. This is particularly the case for the developing countries. Agriculture is the major recipient of raw materials and it also produces tremendous job opportunities, more raw material, and manpower is also supplied for industry. This therefore means that agriculture can prove to be a driving force and impetus for future industrialization as well, so agriculture is really the very basis of the economy in many different countries and this must, of course, be underscored.

Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique): Lors de la dernière session du CSA la Belgique s'est déjà amplement exprimée au sujet de ce point de l'ordre du jour ce qui va me permettre d'être assez brève aujourd'hui. Je voudrais dès à présent remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour avoir pris en compte plusieurs - pour ne pas dire la plupart - des commentaires que nous avons faits au CSA.

Les commentaires que je ferai en ce moment, je les ferai aussi au nom des Pays Bas avec lesquels nous sommes consultés ce qui vous permettra, Monsieur le Président, de réduire votre liste d'orateurs d'au moins une entité.

Pour répondre aux deux questions que Mme Killingsworth a posées à l'introduction de nos débats, nous trouvons que ces propositions nous conviennent et que le document constitue une très bonne base de discussion. Nous voudrions toutefois suggérer quelques petites modifications, pour ne pas dire quelques petits ajouts.

La première de ces modifications que je voudrais suggérer s'adresse au plan d'action, et notamment au point 1 du plan d'action. Nous nous demandons si on ne pourrait pas inscrire concrètement dans ce premier point que la sécurité alimentaire devrait constituer un principe directeur du développement, parce que la sécurité alimentaire permet un développement ciblé et qui tient compte également des plus pauvres. C'est pourquoi nous pensons que c'est un principe de développement.

Pour le reste, je m'associe pleinement à ce qui a été dit par la délégation allemande au sujet de l'inclusion de la croissance démographique, au sujet du "follow-up" concret que l'on devrait prévoir, et au sujet de "empowerment of women" pour employer l'expression utilisée par la délégation allemande.

En ce qui concerne la première partie, j'ai quelques petites suggestions.

A propos du titre du paragraphe 20 qui maintenant est libellé: "Nécessité d'une action", on se demande si un titre plus approprié ne serait pas: "Nécessité d'une stratégie", parce qu'une stratégie à trois composantes: des actions, des programmes et des politiques, et des mesures, tandis que "action" n'est qu'une partie de tout cela.

Je m'associe à ce sujet aux déclarations qui ont été faites par d'autres orateurs, en particulier par l'Allemagne au sujet du "good governance".

J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt ce qui a été dit par la délégation australienne sur le lien faim-pauvreté et il me semble que des références à cette déclaration devraient se retrouver dans la première partie de notre déclaration.

Je voudrais faire aussi une petite suggestion d'ordre rédactionnel dans le paragraphe 19.

Dans la première phrase de ce paragraphe, je crois qu'il s'agit peut-être d'une expression de traduction mais qui selon moi est un peu malheureuse et qui a été utilisée au sujet de l'accès à des produits, et je lis le texte: "alimentaires, nourrissants et non nocifs". Des aliments non nocifs ne me semblent pas vraiment appropriés dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire. Ce que l'on veut probablement signifier c'est qu'il s'agit d'aliments sains qui tiennent compte des habitudes nutritionnelles parce qu'il ne suffit pas de ne pas s'empoisonner pour être nourri. Donc il s'agit là d'une question d'ordre rédactionnel.

Enfin, au sujet de questions organisationnelles, plusieurs délégations ont fait ce matin des suggestions à propos de mécanismes intersessionnels au sujet des "one issue meetings". Je dois dire que j'ai été un peu préoccupée

en écoutant tout cela, et ce, pour deux raisons: d'un côté toutes ces réunions supplémentaires en cours aboutissent à des dépenses budgétaires dans une période où nous avons déjà un budget qui n'est pas très confortable. D'autre part, je me demande si ces "one issue meetings" ne vont pas entraîner un certain détricotage du document qui est maintenant très cohérent parce qu'il a été étudié et examiné par une instance. Si on commence à le faire examiner par plusieurs instances il risque de perdre un peu sa cohérence. Ceci ne veut pas dire que je ne serai pas du tout d'accord pour que l'on ait, à un certain moment, et peut-être un peu plus tard cette année, après les différentes conférences régionales, et à nouveau dans une enceinte qui pourrait être une session extraordinaire du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire par exemple, la possibilité de se réassurer de la cohérence du document après qu'il ait été vu par des instances régionales. Cela me paraît peut-être une meilleure méthode. Ce sont là des éléments plutôt concrets que je voulais apporter à cette discussion.

Nedilson RICARDO JORGE (Brazil): Mr Chairman, first of all allow me to thank the FAO Secretariat and in particular Mrs Killingsworth for the preparation of this excellent document. Document CL 108/12 is a very good and sound basis on which we can continue to work in order to achieve what we feel will be outstanding final documents of the Summit to which the Brazilian Government attaches the greatest importance.

My delegation had the opportunity to express its worries and points of view during the last meeting of the Committee on World Food Security. Therefore, I will be very brief in my comments now. We would like to commend the draft for consideration in our final declaration and Plan of Action that will be adopted by the Summit next year.

As a framework for consideration, the document before us reflects well the debate that we had during the last CFS as registered in its report in CL 108/10. We are particularly supportive of the concepts contained in paragraphs 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 39 of that report. The document before us, however, is still a first draft and we think that it can naturally improve as it develops according to our debate until it reaches its final version.

As a contribution to the process, my delegation would like to make some brief comments on the contents of the declaration. As we have already remarked during the last session of the CFS, my delegation considers -and I would like to reiterate the point - that the question of access to food and the relationship between poverty and hunger are central questions when one considers the matter of food security.

As other delegations that preceded us, we think that this point should deserve a more prominent position in the document and we are of the opinion that it should be duly highlighted as a very, very crucial point.

My delegation would like also to express its view that the reference to genetic resources as we understand in paragraph 23 of the draft, is very important due to the relationship of the matter with food security. We would like to emphasize that any controversial wording should be avoided in the document, in particular to what relates to matters that clearly are not the object of consensus.

As a final remark, my delegation would like to support the proposal made by Chile and endorsed by many other delegations to give the Committee on Food Security a more prominent role as a preparatory body for the Summit, so as we could have now a focal point in the process preparation of that meeting. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso): La délégation du Burkina Faso se félicite de vous avoir à nouveau parmi nous, Monsieur le Président, pour présider nos travaux avec doigté.

La préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation a déjà fait l'objet d'un examen approfondi des Etats Membres lors de la vingtième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire à laquelle participait le Burkina Faso. Au passage, je voudrais rendre hommage au Secrétariat du Sommet pour la rapidité avec laquelle il a pu prendre en compte une grande partie des observations du Comité, dont les nôtres. Raison pour laquelle à cette deuxième étape du processus d'examen des documents préparatoires la délégation du Burkina Faso voudrait seulement formuler rapidement quelques commentaires généraux sur le Sommet. Quant aux observations spécifiques sur certains articles du document, elles seront remises par écrit au Secrétariat du Conseil.

En termes de commentaires généraux disons que le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation intéresse au premier degré les pays concernés par l'insécurité alimentaire. Les victimes des aléas climatiques et de la faim attendent de la communauté internationale et de la FAO, 50 ans après sa création des mesures concrètes pour résoudre durablement les questions de sous-alimentation et de malnutrition, facteurs essentiels des retards de développement. Elles espèrent de la prise de conscience politique attendue du Sommet un renforcement de l'engagement matériel financier et technologique et un renforcement de la solidarité internationale.

La délégation du Burkina Faso réitère particulièrement son soutien ferme aux recommandations du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire sur la nécessité de parvenir à un accord sur des objectifs quantifiables et réalisables dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire, en établissant clairement les responsabilités et le calendrier d'exécution afin d'obtenir des résultats concrets. Cette préoccupation n'est malheureusement pas prise en compte dans le développement de la dernière partie du document. Le paragraphe 37 manque de précision et gagnerait à être développé en tenant compte des suggestions suivantes: définition d'objectifs quantifiables et si possible quantifiés pour atteindre la sécurité alimentaire adaptée à chaque région. Ces objectifs devront être formulés en fonction de chaque niveau de décision, international, régional et national. Il s'agit notamment d'accroître les investissements et l'utilisation des facteurs de production, d'augmenter les ratios terres irriguées-terres irrigables, d'assurer l'intégration régionale du commerce agricole et de réitérer les engagements pour accroître la proportion du PNB destinée à l'aide publique au développement; de réviser le niveau d'engagement minimum prévu au titre de la Convention de l'aide alimentaire; de s'engager à augmenter les budgets destinés au développement de l'agriculture.

Evidemment une fois ces objectifs quantifiés définis, un suivi étroit, notamment des évaluations par étape, devra être assuré tant au niveau sous-régional, régional qu'international afin que ce sommet tant attendu n'accouche pas d'une souris et ne soit pas qu'une autre grand-messe de plus.

A propos des commentaires spécifiques que nous allons remettre au Secrétariat par écrit, ils sont relatifs à la note explicative aux paragraphes 11, 16, 24 et 25 ainsi que 28 et puis également aux éléments d'un plan d'action sur les principes 2, 5 et 7 mais ils sont tellement techniques que nous préférons vous les remettre tout à l'heure avec l'espoir qu'ils seront également pris en considération.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguida Delegación de Burkina Faso, le aseguro que serán tomadas en cuenta sus observaciones que por escrito enviará a la Secretaría.

Supote DECHATES (Thailand): My delegation supports the statement made by the Chairman of the Asia Group in supporting the Director-General of the FAO for his initiative to convene a World Food Summit. It is now rescheduled from 11 to 17 November 1996. We believe this new schedule is timely and most suitable for the present world situation. We all realize that several countries will still be facing food shortage, I refer in particular to the low-income food deficit countries. We also believe that raising awareness of the world problem at the highest level and securing concerted international action are the key objectives for a successful Summit in order to find solutions for our planet to be free from hunger. My delegation hopes countries' policies would focus more on food security rather than arms security. Thanks to the Government of Italy for hosting this Summit.

Mr Chairman, my government endorses the Director-General's intention that the Summit would not be a pledging conference nor aim at the creation of any new financial mechanism or institution. Instead, we strongly support the close partnership between FAO and Member Nations, multilateral organizations and the NGOs. This partnership should begin from the preparatory process of the Summit to the implementation of the Summit Plan of Action. The continuation of the process of the Summit should include the role of the FAO in assisting Member Nations to follow up the Summit Plan of Action.

With regard to the document CL 108/12, paragraph 9, my delegation agrees that objectives and Plan of Action should have regional and sub-regional as well as global components. We look forward to cooperating closely in the FAO Regional Conference schedule for 1996.

Mr Chairman, in conclusion, my government endorses Part I and Part II elements of the document CL 108/12 to be included in the policy document and in the Plan of Action, respectively.

Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela): Muchas gracias señor Presidente. Mi gobierno está convencido que una cumbre mundial sobre la alimentación, en los actuales momentos, significa involucrar a toda la comunidad internacional y, sobre todo, a los países de mayores recursos para colaborar con la FAO en la búsqueda de soluciones prácticas al problema de la inseguridad alimentaria, que constituye, sin lugar a dudas, un grave flagelo para gran parte de la humanidad y que de no aunarse voluntades, sin la mediación de factores políticos, no permitirá mejorar las condiciones de los más necesitados y llegaremos, ciertamente, a una situación verdaderamente catastrófica.

Venezuela, como país de América Latina y el Caribe, ha visto con suma preocupación como la pobreza en nuestra región se ha incrementado hasta alcanzar niveles realmente inhumanos. Es por ello que una cumbre mundial sobre la alimentación parecería una esperanza válida para todos aquellos que, pese a los esfuerzos nacionales realizados, no han encontrado salida para solucionar este problema.

Mi Gobierno, atendiendo la solicitud y el planteamiento del Director General de la FAO, no sólo designó a un Secretario Nacional que servirá de enlace con la Organización para los preparativos de la cumbre, sino que dio un paso a nuestro entender que va más allá, cuando el Presidente de la República juramentó hace unos días y puso en funcionamiento el Consejo Nacional de Alimentación, órgano de carácter permanente para concretar, asesorar y proponer al ejecutivo nacional, los mecanismos e instrumentos que aseguren la disponibilidad financiera y la objetiva toma de decisiones para su inversión a fin de garantizar la producción de alimentos y, proteger así a la nación contra riesgos de desabastecimiento y contra la alta dependencia foránea que actualmente tenemos.

Señor Presidente, es evidente que para lograr el éxito de la cumbre, se hace necesario un Plan de Acción concreto en el tiempo, con objetivos precisos y alcanzables, de manera que la misma no concluya en una mera declaración política de buena voluntad. Por tal motivo compartimos la idea de que el Proyecto de Declaración sea breve y conciso.

Ya en el Informe de la cumbre de 1974, intitulado "Alimentación, Agricultura y Seguridad Alimentaria, la dimensión mundial, evolución histórica, situación actual y perspectivas de futuro" se sostenía que, y abro comillas... mientras la esencia del problema de la alimentación mundial sea la elevada inseguridad alimentaria y la subnutrición precisamente en los países con escasos suministros de alimentos per capita y una acusada dependencia de la agricultura, no podrá haber respuestas políticas adecuadas si no incluyen una fuerte dosis para acelerar la producción de alimentos en esos mismos países, por lo menos en esta fase de su desarrollo cierro comillas.

Señor Presidente, no escapa a nadie las diferencias sustanciales que existen en todas las regiones del mundo, en cuanto a los niveles de seguridad alimentaria y a las capacidades para remediar esta situación, y es por ello, que pensamos que debe adoptarse un enfoque, primeramente nacional y posteriormente regional. Mi delegación considera oportuna la decisión del Director General de postergar la cumbre para la segunda mitad del año de 1996, pues esto nos permitirá preparar con más esmero y tiempo los temas y documentos que en ella se puedan adoptar.

Es por eso, Señor Presidente, y dentro de esta perspectiva, que creemos que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, que es el Órgano de la FAO con más competencia en los temas que serán debatidos en la cumbre debe ser el Órgano que se encargue de coordinar, debatir y examinar todo el proceso preparatorio de esta cumbre. Y por eso requiero la propuesta lanzada por mi Delegación durante el Vigésimo Período de Sesiones de ese Comité, en el sentido de designarlo con tal carácter de Órgano preparatorio.

Si el Director General de la FAO, consciente de la necesidad de coordinar las actividades que distintos organismos, a nivel nacional, adelantan y que tienen que ver con la participación de los países en la Cumbre, propuso con mucha visión el que se nombrara un Secretario Nacional que sirviera de enlace entre el país y el Secretariado de la Cumbre, pensamos entonces que es necesario alcanzar una coordinación que vaya más allá de la nacional, que sea a nivel internacional.

Por eso, Señor Presidente, estamos convencidos de que este rol de coordinación, de punto focal, corresponde al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria por ser el órgano intergubernamental de la FAO, por su competencia, y por ser más apto para adelantar tales funciones de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación.

A nuestro entender, este papel de Comité Preparatorio de la Cumbre debe traducirse no sólo en la reunión normal prevista en enero de 1996, sino que también debe preverse una reunión extraordinaria breve, quizás hacia septiembre de 1996, que permita incorporar, a los documentos que se vayan a someter a la Cumbre para su aprobación, los resultados de las reuniones regionales que tendrán lugar durante el verano del próximo año. Por ello, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, en su calidad de Comité Preparatorio, deberá, en su reunión de enero, establecer las directrices que encuadren claramente las contribuciones que harán los países y las regiones a la cumbre.

Señor Presidente, nos complace altamente constatar que numerosas delegaciones han apoyado previamente esta idea que Venezuela quería exponer en la tarde de hoy.

Sra. Ileana Maritza LOPEZ TURCIOS (Honduras): Muchas gracias Señor Presidente. La delegación de Honduras desea hacer algunos breves comentarios de carácter general sobre el documento CL 108/12 que se somete a nuestra consideración.

Mi delegación otorga a este proyecto de documento normativo y plan de acción, una importancia fundamental para el fomento de la toma de conciencia a nivel mundial y para garantizar la acción internacional concertada sobre uno de los más graves problemas que aquejan a la humanidad, o sea la inseguridad alimentaria.

En este contexto, permítame, a nombre de mi delegación y la de los países del Istmo Centroamericano, expresar nuestro más decidido apoyo a la celebración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación y por ende a la elaboración del proyecto que nos ocupa.

En este orden de ideas, deseo expresar que concedemos particular importancia a los criterios y conclusiones alcanzados en foros anteriores, comenzando por la Declaración Universal sobre la Erradicación del Hambre y la Malnutrición de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación de 1974, incluyendo especialmente los compromisos que sobre el particular adoptó la comunidad internacional en la CNUMAD celebrada en Río de Janeiro en 1992, así como la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN) efectuada en Roma en 1992, la Cumbre Mundial sobre Desarrollo Social realizada en Copenhague este año y otras mencionadas el día de hoy.

En nuestro concepto, estas iniciativas, las citadas en el párrafo 11 y otras más de carácter regional, dan continuidad al debate y evitan repeticiones innecesarias.

Para mi delegación, la orientación regional, subregional y nacional deben dar el rumbo a aquellas de carácter mundial. En este marco de referencias estimo oportuno señalar que la región del Istmo Centroamericano ha venido efectuando sobre el tema de la seguridad alimentaria las siguientes acciones: participación y apoyo a la reciente Conferencia Latinoamericana y del Caribe sobre Seguridad Alimentaria, realizada en Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, del 15 al 17 de marzo de 1995, donde se decidió definir una estrategia para establecer un movimiento que persigue lograr la convergencia de esfuerzos y acciones de todos los actores sociales para reducir la inseguridad alimentaria de los grupos de población que la padecen, prevenir el incremento de dicha población y superar las causas que originan situaciones de inseguridad alimentaria, así como la inclusión de la generación de ingresos y empleo, desarrollo de la producción y adecuación de la comercialización de alimentos, disponibilidad de infraestructura física y social y mejoramiento de la educación nutricional.

De la misma manera, deseamos referirnos a los acuerdos alcanzados en la declaración de Antigua de 1990, la declaración de Guatemala de 1993, así como la declaración de Panamá de 1992, reconociendo la necesidad de incrementar la disponibilidad y accesibilidad de alimentos que permitan a la población combatir efectivamente la desnutrición.

En el contexto del documento en análisis, estimo que, sin lugar a dudas, el desarrollo agrícola sostenible es un elemento fundamental, lo que puede significar una efectiva seguridad alimentaria en los países en desarrollo. Resulta lógico que en muchos países de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos, la producción de alimentos básicos no crezca al ritmo de crecimiento de la población, por lo que respaldamos las observaciones del distinguido delegado de Chile en relación con el imperativo ético y sus consideraciones sobre los párrafos 16

y 17.

Se hace indispensable pues, la necesidad de intensificar, de una parte, la ayuda directa a las poblaciones más vulnerables y, por la otra, aumentar los recursos económicos destinados a los países en desarrollo en el marco de políticas sostenibles de desarrollo rural.

De manera global, deseamos expresar que concedemos gran importancia a la capacitación y la investigación. Asimismo, consideramos que la estrategia para el desarrollo debe basarse en un fortalecimiento de las estructuras nacionales para aumentar y consolidar el nivel tecnológico interno y, a este propósito, estimamos fundamental el rol de la FAO.

El tema de la participación de la mujer debe tener una altísima prioridad, ya que somos nosotras, las mujeres, las que constituimos la piedra angular en la que se fundamenta el núcleo familiar, el desarrollo social y más específicamente representamos el foco del desarrollo agrícola, en la producción de los alimentos y en la conservación del medio ambiente.

La delegación hondureña desea también reafirmar el concepto de seguridad alimentaria tal como se señala en el párrafo 19 del documento, aun cuando en nuestra opinión deben reforzarse algunos aspectos de carácter económico, social y de oportunidad de trabajo, que consideramos de gran importancia. Apoyamos de manera decidida los párrafos 29 y 30.

Compartimos y apoyamos la propuesta de la Delegación de Chile en el sentido de que por conducto de este Consejo se eleve a la Conferencia la propuesta del Señor Director General relacionada con la convocatoria de la Cumbre. De la misma manera respaldamos la propuesta de que el órgano oficial para la preparación de la Cumbre sea el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y la convocatoria de los períodos extraordinarios de dicho Comité, siempre que sean necesarios.

Para finalizar, y, en forma general, aun cuando sujetos a mejoramiento, respaldamos los criterios de acción, los principios y compromisos, así como los objetivos de la seguridad alimentaria y la responsabilidad de su aplicación.

Per Harald GRUE (Norway): Mr Chairman, as my delegation expressed its opinion on the content of the document at the last Session of the CFS, I can be brief. My delegation adds its support to the emerging consensus to hold a World Food Summit in November 1996, whether at the level of ministers or Heads of State. We share the Director-General's view that the challenge to feed three billion additional inhabitants of our planet by the year 2030 is immense. We are fully committed to the work of eradicating hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity but I would like to make some general comments on the process of deciding on and preparing for the Summit. This is the first time that the Summit has been on the Council's agenda. We therefore find ourselves in the peculiar situation that the Council is now presented with a long list of other organizations who have already discussed the holding of the Summit within this Organization. We would have much preferred a process within the Organization which allowed us time to go through the normal decision making processes. It might have taken longer but it would have ensured a more thorough examination of the pros and cons of using scarce resources on a Summit rather than on operational activities. As the concept of food security is broad and involves several other sectors and organizations, a Summit approach might well be justified. The calling of a Summit might nevertheless have benefited from being brought to the highest organ in the UN system, the General Assembly, to ensure full commitment at that level also.

In the information note on the World Food Summit distributed to the Council it is underlined that this should be a Summit with a difference. We agree that the preparations should be kept simple, but they should still be of a high quality. In our opinion, it is the quality of the preparatory phases of summits and other high-level meetings which determine the long term success of such events. The only point in calling for a high level meeting on food security is if it will produce concrete, substantial and measurable progress towards improved global food security. A summit should never be regarded as an aim in itself, but rather a means to reach a common understanding as a basis for global action. The content of the information note is of such importance for the governing body in evaluating preparation for the Summit that it should have been provided in a Council document well in advance.

Mr Chairman, I am satisfied that the information note stresses the need to involve other agencies and NGOs. It is of the utmost importance that the Summit actively involves all other relevant international organizations. I would nevertheless like to receive more information on how the NGOs will be involved.

Turning to the preparations for the Summit, the technical work so far done by the Secretariat is of high quality. The revised elements for a possible declaration and plan of action presented to this Council generally reflect well the comments made at the CFS, though we agree with the comments made by the European Union, particularly on the need for strong international coordination, and on the importance of the population issue and of access as the key factors to be addressed. Also, the issue of sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishery in accordance with the UNCED conclusions must be given high prominence in the plan of action.

This statement has been prepared in consultation with the other Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden.

Aldo PUGLEESE (Italy): First of all, with reference to Document CL 108/12, let me say that we appreciate the quality of the content. We see that most of the considerations of the last CFS have been taken into account and work is progressing well, resulting in two meaningful documents. On the elements for the final document and the plan of action, we have nothing to add to the statement made the European Union as it covered our comments comprehensively.

However, we would like to add a consideration referring to paragraphs 10 and 11 which is the documentation for the Summit. We believe in order to have a meaningful approach to food security that a critical analysis of past experience would be extremely useful. This would refer to the various food security-related programmes of FAO such as, for instance, early warning prevention of post-harvest food losses, multiplication and so on as well as other international actions and strategies carried out in the past for food security during the last decade.

We believe this analysis is important both for the Summit and the launching of concrete initiatives under the Special Programme.

Finally, Mr Chairman, as Italy will be the country which will hold this important event, we would like to say a few words on the organization of the Summit. We were reminded in the statement of the Director-General -and I take this opportunity to thank him for his kind words addressed to our government - that we have agreed the Summit will take place in Rome and we promise we will fully collaborate with FAO as much as possible to solve the complex problems connected with the organization of an event of such magnitude. This implies there will have to be a remarkable effort on all sides, both in terms of work and financial engagement. This, I must say, is at a time when our country, along with many others, is facing a difficult situation and serious budgetary constraints.

However, we do agree with the Director-General that an event of this kind should take place here in Rome, the city which is the seat of FAO and of all the other food and agricultural organizations. Therefore, it is and should remain in our view the natural centre for discussion and decisions on all matters related to food security.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Señor Distinguido Delegado de Italia, por confirmar el apoyo de su Gobierno a la FAO en la preparación, tanto material como diplomática, de la Cumbre.

Raphael RABE (Madagascar): La délégation de Madagascar est déjà intervenue sur ce point de l'ordre du jour lors de son examen au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale au cours de sa vingtième session. Aussi, nous serons brefs.

Tout d'abord, nous voudrions manifester notre reconnaissance au Secrétariat d'avoir bien voulu tenir compte des commentaires et recommandations que nous avons formulés à cette occasion.

A l'instar de nombreuses délégations qui ont pris la parole, nous voudrions, nous aussi, mettre l'accent sur la nécessité de renforcement de la coopération et de la solidarité entre pays développés et pays en développement, d'une part, et entre pays en développement eux-mêmes, d'autre part.

Comme plusieurs délégations, nous sommes d'avis qu'il faudra traiter largement des mesures allant dans le sens de l'intensification des investissements dans le secteur de l'agriculture et de la pêche, sans oublier l'aquaculture qui constitue un domaine de grandes possibilités dans le cadre d'une amélioration sensible de la sécurité alimentaire. Dans cet ordre d'idées, nous sommes favorables, nous aussi, à un large partenariat. Ainsi, nous apprécions avec grand optimisme la contribution du secteur privé, des organisations non gouvernementales ainsi que des principaux organes et organisations concernés du système des Nations Unies, des institutions financières de Bretton Woods et des banques régionales, tel que l'a d'ailleurs mentionné le Directeur général dans son discours d'ouverture.

Nous apprécions l'accent mis sur le renforcement des capacités nationales et le transfert effectif des technologies, surtout des nouvelles technologies, pour assurer la mise à disposition des utilisateurs, à savoir les agriculteurs, quelque soit leur statut, hommes ou femmes, des résultats de la recherche agricole.

Si nous avons relevé quelques priorités qui nous tiennent à coeur, nous accordons notre appui à toutes les propositions pertinentes figurant dans le document CL 108/12, notamment celles contenues dans la partie II du document.

Nous voudrions indiquer que nous appuyons la proposition de la délégation de l'Allemagne, reprise par d'autres délégations, tendant à s'assurer qu'un suivi efficace des décisions et recommandations du Sommet soit fait pour évaluer les progrès accomplis dans leur mise en oeuvre par les différents protagonistes.

Enfin, nous voudrions réitérer le soutien chaleureux du Gouvernement malgache à l'Organisation et à la tenue du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Como la delegada de Argentina no se encuentra en la sala, me voy a permitir conceder la palabra a la distinguida delegación de la República Islámica del Irán.

Abbas AMINI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): Among other reasons, the existence of 800 million hungry people in the world, and the increase in this number is a clear indication of insufficiency of current attention and activities of all who are concerned with difficulties concerning humanity, especially the international bodies concerned with food and nutrition.

Due to this outstanding fact, my delegation, would like to express its full and unconditional support for this timely initiative by the Director-General of FAO. We would also like to inform the Council that the meeting of Agricultural Ministers of the OIC held in January 1995 in Teheran, passed a resolution not only supporting this Summit but highly praising the Director-General for this initiative.

Mr Chairman, as far as the Documents CL 108/10 and CL 108/12 are concerned, we are quite satisfied with the reports. These reports fully reflect the comments of Member Nations during the CFS session, and we would like to add only one extra comment. As far as food and hunger are concerned, the small agricultural producers of developing countries deserve very high attention. These farmers are not only the major food supply source for the low-income population of the world but they themselves are a major part of the hungry population. Any endeavour to increase their production and income is the most direct and effective way of combating hunger and malnutrition. Therefore, not only should they be the centre of attention at the Summit but they should be represented at the Summit in a proper manner which shows their very existence, importance, potential and difficulties.

We think that even the physical presence of their true representatives would play an important role in drawing the attention of the world and world leaders to the core of the problem of hunger, food insecurity and the existing potentials. We urge the Secretariat to take this point into consideration.

Filibus BATURE (Nigeria): Mr Chairman, it is a great pleasure to see you once more in the chair. The proposal to hold a World Food Summit is an important decision in the right direction. Since the World Food Conference held in 1974 every effort has been made by the United Nations, regional bodies as well as individual nations, to solve the problems of food insecurity, hunger, malnutrition and poverty but the goals set, unfortunately, have not been reached.

The situation has been compounded by other factors such as civil strife, natural calamities and diseases leading to ruined lives and loss of productivity. The World Food Summit intends to offer us the opportunity to solemnly affirm our commitments in the potential for a brighter future in which the satisfaction of man's needs will not threaten the integrity of the whole world.

The Summit, which is intended to be held at the highest policy-making level, should among other things examine the application of internal policies and external factors such as debt as well as increases in interest rate, falling commodity prices, trade protectionism and the growing challenges of increased population and environmental degradation. Member Nations through their food strategy framework should make a greater effort to increase the productivity and incomes of small farmers and encourage them to adopt environmentally sustainable production practices to promote rural and urban measures which support women and which take into account their needs and full contribution to the development process; to strengthen and build domestic institutions with appropriate emphasis on the private sector and grassroots institutions as well as to strengthen national debt collection and analytical capabilities to monitor, evaluate and plan progress towards our goals.

Mr Chairman, the Nigerian delegation supports a proposal to hold a World Food Summit in 1996 and also supports all the necessary arrangements being made to make the Summit a success.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina): Pido disculpas, Sr. Presidente, por no haber estado presente en la sala, pero estamos celebrando en estos momentos una reunión de coordinación del grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, sobre este tema y sobre otros particularmente importantes en el presente Consejo.

La delegación argentina, Sr. Presidente, quisiera hacer algunos comentarios sobre el documento CL 108/12 que nos ha presentado la Secretaría.

Con relación a la Declaración y el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial de Alimentación, nosotros creemos que debe ser básicamente un consenso mundial sobre principios y objetivos básicos, pero también incluir compromisos más o menos obligatorios en áreas específicas o de alcance regional.

Con respecto a la definición del concepto de seguridad alimentaria que se pretende ampliar y sacar de su significado tradicional, o hacer más comprensivo que su significado tradicional, creemos que debe enfatizar el derecho a acceder a los alimentos y a procurárselos en el sentido de acceso a la capacidad de producir a un sistema de distribución, a la capacidad de adquirir y de importar, con especial énfasis en la autonomía alimentaria. Creemos que sería más feliz la palabra autonomía que autodependencia que se está usando en el documento.

Entendemos que debe enfocarse sobre todo la posibilidad de aumentar la capacidad de respuesta de los países en desarrollo para atender a sus necesidades alimentarias y lograr un nivel satisfactorio de seguridad alimentaria en el ámbito nacional y en los hogares.

En el documento CL 108/12 se registra en el párrafo 24 un punto que es muy importante como enfoque y como punto de partida de la declaración y plan de acción de la Cumbre, que es el de la interdependencia. Creemos, efectivamente, en la interacción positiva entre la liberalización de mercados y el desarrollo; entre la liberalización de los mercados en los países industrializados y el crecimiento de los mercados en los países en desarrollo. Esta interacción dinámica no puede ir sino en favor de un crecimiento global generalizado.

También agradecemos que el documento cite la importancia de los planes regionales de integración en el mejoramiento de los niveles de nutrición de los países. Asimismo, la nueva versión del proyecto de declaración y plan de acción recoge la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, como guía para afianzar

la seguridad alimentaria, a través del apoyo a la transferencia de tecnologías autóctonas o intermedias entre los países en desarrollo.

Otro tema importante, Sr. Presidente, es el componente regional en los documentos de la Cumbre y en la aplicación posterior de los documentos de la Cumbre. En la región de América Latina y el Caribe se están elaborando aportes, así como respaldos expresos a la preparación de la Cumbre Mundial de Alimentación, tanto en el Grupo de Rio que se reunirá en Ecuador en octubre de 1995, como para la Conferencia Iberoamericana que se reunirá en Argentina en octubre de este año para citar dos ejemplos. Decía, Sr. Presidente, en esos ámbitos se están preparando documentos de apoyo a la celebración de la Cumbre y especiales aportes en cada uno de ellos. En el caso del Grupo de Rio apuntando a instar a las instituciones financieras internacionales y organismos gubernamentales y no gubernamentales y sector privado en los países miembros a proporcionar su apoyo a los programas pendientes a mejorar la seguridad alimentaria.

En el caso de la Cumbre Iberoamericana que este año estará dedicada a la capacitación y a la educación, pensamos que el punto VI del documento CL 108/12 que se refiere justamente a la investigación, a los conocimientos autóctonos, la capacitación y la transferencia de conocimientos y el aumento de la capacidad para la innovación, señala un área donde América Latina y el Caribe y los países iberoamericanos en general creen que tienen mucho que recorrer y para lo cual piensan que debería surgir de la Cumbre, junto con los documentos de la declaración y plan de acción, algún tipo de compromisos regionales, o planes de acción regionales, como digo en este ámbito de la investigación, la capacitación y la difusión de conocimientos.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, esperemos que las conferencias regionales de la FAO que se celebrarán en 1996, desarrollen en contenidos concretos los compromisos normativos que el documento CL 108/12 menciona en el párrafo 28 y desarrolla en los apartados I-IX, a los cuales mi delegación asigna particular importancia.

La delegación argentina se asocia, asimismo, a la propuesta de la delegación de Chile en el sentido de programar otra reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en septiembre del 96 para integrar y consolidar los aportes de las conferencias regionales y pronunciarse sobre los proyectos de documentos que se someterán a la Cumbre.

EL PRESIDENTE: Para una observación le paso la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Francia.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Nous avons discuté du contenu des textes qui seront soumis au Sommet et nous avons fait quelque peu avancer la réflexion sur ce sujet. C'est pour cela que je n'ai pas pris la parole.

En ce qui concerne le niveau de représentation à ce Sommet de novembre 1996, de notre point de vue les participants doivent être du niveau le plus élevé possible, c'est-à-dire d'abord des chefs d'Etat ou sinon des chefs de gouvernements, mais aussi, de notre point de vue, des ministres, pour ceux des pays qui ne seront pas en mesure d'envoyer ni chef d'Etat ni chef de gouvernement. Nous pensons que cette flexibilité, qui n'est pas une excuse pour faciliter le non-engagement d'un certain nombre de pays, est nécessaire pour permettre de trouver la formule la plus appropriée. Il y aurait donc peut-être avantage, lors des travaux du comité de rédaction, à inclure une formule dans laquelle le mot "ministre" figure, ou bien une formule telle que celle-ci: "au niveau le plus élevé possible", ce qui permettrait de couvrir toutes les hypothèses.

Je parle maintenant sur le plan français et j'ai été très intéressé par la proposition faite par mon collègue chilien concernant une réunion du CSA qui ferait le bilan des propositions faites par les conférences régionales, pour améliorer les textes par des suggestions régionales comme celle qui viennent d'être faites par l'Argentine sur la recherche.

Le problème est le suivant: est-ce que l'Organisation a vraiment les moyens de multiplier les réunions? Je ne suis pas contre l'idée, mais il faut bien voir combien cela coûte et si cela est possible. Si vous pouviez nous éclairer sur ce point nous vous en serions reconnaissants.

Je parle toujours à titre français, si nous pouvions avoir d'ores et déjà des indications budgétaires sur le coût envisagé pour le Sommet, avec tout ce processus préparatoire, nous en serions heureux. Je pense que vous allez nous en parler après, mais c'est également très important.

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente las cuestiones presupuestales relativas al proceso preparatorio y la celebración de la Cumbre se discutirán bajo el tema 16 el viernes.

Con esto concluyo la lista de oradores de miembros del Consejo. Tengo una lista de observadores a quienes voy a pedir que noten que estamos atrasados en nuestros trabajos en el día de hoy, y por tanto, procuren ser lo más breve posible.

Mohamed SAID HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank you very much, Mr Chairman. This Summit, this World Food Summit, has more than one meaning. By the very nature of our continuing work in this Organization, we have closely followed the efforts made by the Secretariat in preparing this Summit and have also very closely followed the work of the specialized committees set up by the Director-General.

Mr Chairman, we ourselves witnessed the efforts and the abnegation fielded by the Director-General to ensure the full success of the Summit. The Director-General has his own philosophy and his vision, which he made quite clear yesterday in his statement and which is very much in line with our ideas as to what should be done by countries and by regions.

Mr Chairman, Sir, quite obviously there is a difference between inviting a high-level official or minister to a summit and inviting a head of state. A head of state is a direct symbol of national sovereignty, and the expression of the political will of the people in all its diversity. This is a reason why, Sir, my delegation harbours great hopes and has great expectations in this Summit, and we really place much hope in it and we'll meet despite political differences that do exist in the world, and this is a positive and encouraging sign. All the countries, developed and developing, will express their worries.

We are going to try to come up with solutions to the problems of food and supply, hunger, and poverty in the world in order to ensure a better climate and a better future to generations still to come.

Mr Chairman, during that Conference heads of state and government will talk about the economic possibilities of their countries; they will talk about the situation of the agriculture and also refer to the possibilities that their countries do have as regards resolving the problems that do prevent agricultural development. The commissions and the committees which have been set up in Sudan which have met to prepare drafting the documents for that Summit have done some interesting work.

They will show clearly and faithfully the enormous possibilities of the Sudanese agriculture. We in Sudan have 200 million hectares of land which could be farmed but only farm a small percentage of the available arable land. Our soil, the soil in our country, is very fertile, and we have a climate which is quite adept for many types of crops and fruits and vegetables and also forests. We also have extremely important resources in waterways, one of the largest rivers in the entire world. We also have a great livestock wealth, wild animals and fisheries.

Nonetheless, Mr Chairman, at this important Conference, we have to show our faith in the capabilities of the developing countries. The developed countries able to do so should help to make the best use of these hidden resources and capabilities. We feel, Mr Chairman, that the upcoming Summit will represent a historical occasion as regards signing a treaty, in terms of signing some sort of document where all partners would undertake the commitment quite honestly to do away with this expression, "food deficit countries", in all UN and FAO documents.

And, Mr Chairman, we know, we really don't want any more to listen to this expression that we have heard over the last 50 years, an expression which is really disappointing and discouraging. We are about to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this Food and Agriculture Organization. Mr Chairman, we have taken a very close look at the documents which have been distributed by the Canadian delegation in preparation of the meeting in Quebec, and we do trust and hope, Sir, that the forthcoming Conference will constitute a very important and useful basis, or we hope that that celebration will constitute a very important basis for the World Food Summit and will be an opportunity for an exchange of views among all participating countries. We trust and hope that the Summit itself will make it possible to resolve the problems of each country and of the entire world.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we would have to applaud the efforts deployed by the Director-General and encourage the contacts that he has had with the some 60 countries that have supported the idea of this Summit, and all volunteered to participate financially in the Summit and in the preparatory meetings. This is not toadying, but we should not be afraid of telling the truth. The very useful proposals of the Director-General make us look ahead to a very brilliant future for this Organization.

We would like to thank the Secretariat and the committees working in the corridors in utmost silence in preparation for that Summit. We trust and hope that the Almighty will be of assistance to us in this endeavour. Thank you, Sir.

Björn SIGURBJÖRNSSON (Observer for Iceland): Mr Chairman, there can be no question that the World Food Summit is necessary to draw attention to the present food situation and to emphasize the worrisome outlook for the future. The document prepared for this event, however, is rather bland, does not highlight the real problems to be confronted in the future, and is rather unlikely to tempt heads of governments to attend this event. A number of distinguished scientists and scholars have presented population growth and food production trends for the future and attempted to paint food supply scenarios at various points of time in the future.

For example, FAO Towards 2010 and other predictions for 2025 and 2030. It is striking that none of the prophets dares to look beyond the middle of the next century, yet the food and population growth lines start to cross and diverge from one another long before the middle of the century and the gap threatens to increase sharply. Nobody dares to state that by 2050 the world's farmers will indeed be able to feed the world using present knowledge, technology, natural resources and unputs. By that time there will not be any extra land or any extra water to accommodate more food production. Our hopes can only lie in novel technology and new approaches to producing materials which can be consumed as or instead of food. Unless population growth is stopped and reversed during the next century, we must emphasize basic and applied research and development to find ways to produce more food without mining our natural resources and the environment. Research results are often slow in coming. Basic research started today may not be translated into increased food production until decades later, perhaps fifty years from now. Unless the Plan of Action brings out as a central point the need for a vast increase in research, investment of benefit to food production, we are doomed to lose the fight against hunger in the next century. We need to raise our sights and widen our horizons. We may need to look beyond crop and livestock and plants and animals and look at the building blocks themselves, the chloroplast, the mitochondria, freed of the cumbersome framework of flesh and bones, cell-walls, leaves and roots, the use of seawater and deserts for food production. We need to establish think tanks to charter the scientific and technical paths to be followed in the next century. The future of mankind may depend on the skills of agricultural scientists. A dedication to scientific research leading to new breakthroughs and a series of more and better green revolutions must be a central theme of the World Food Summit in 1996. Surely, paragraph 23 does no justice to this central theme.

Gilbert DOH-DJANHOUNDY (Observateur de la Côte d'Ivoire): Mon intervention d'hier a porté sur le document CL 108/10, celle d'aujourd'hui portera sur le document CL 108/12 concernant le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. La première partie de ce document décrit les principes sur lesquels le Sommet mondial doit se mettre d'accord. La délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire marque son accord sur ces principes au stade de notre discussion. Le plan d'action pêche un peu par manque d'informations, comme l'ont souligné un grand nombre de délégués. Je pense qu'ainsi que nous l'avons dit hier il convient de mettre suffisamment l'accent sur la maîtrise de l'eau pour assurer le développement rural et le développement agricole et il convient d'entreprendre des actions concrètes pour les ouvrages d'irrigation.

A propos du point VI où l'on parle de connaissance de la recherche et du développement, il faut prévoir l'établissement d'une banque internationale de données techniques et technologiques relatives à toutes les techniques qui peuvent être utilisées dans le domaine du développement agricole et de l'alimentation. Il faudrait également que le plan d'action mette un accent particulier sur l'élevage et l'agro-industrie.

La proposition du Chili relative à une réunion qui serait susceptible de faire le point de toutes les réunions régionales me paraît pertinente dans le cadre par exemple du Comité de sécurité alimentaire, mais en session extraordinaire.

A.T. ABDEL HAFEEZ (Observer for the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development) (Original language Arabic): For me Sir, it is a pleasure and an honour to extend to you on behalf of His Excellency Dr Yahia Bakhour, the General Director of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, our congratulations and thanks for being able to speak at this session of the Council, to which we extend our best wishes for a successful outcome, and we would like to thank the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, for having invited us to attend this Council meeting where discussion is under way on issues of the utmost importance, especially for world food security.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development is one of the specialized agencies of the League of Arab States. It was created in 1970. It set up its main headquarters in the city of Khartoum, Sudan and opened regional branch offices scattered throughout the length and breadth of the Arab world. In the Maghreb we have the offices of Rabat, Niwagshot, Tripoli and Algeria and in eastern Arab Region we have the branch offices in Amman, Damascus, Baghdad, Sanaa and among all this chain is the branch office of Cairo. There are also the liaison officers. The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development has its General Assembly made up of Their Excellencies the Ministers of Agriculture of all our Arab countries and the Organization also has an Executive Council and a General Secretariat.

Mr Chairman, ever since its inception the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development has sought to pursue the following objectives: (1) development of the human resources active in agriculture; (2) sustainable agricultural development; (3) conservation of environmental resources; (4) increased agricultural production and agricultural productivity; (5) to render operative the trade between agricultural products; (6) development of the role of rural women in agriculture; (7) adaptation of technologies to local conditions. (8) Last but not the least to guarantee food security for Arab citizens.

Mr Chairman, in order to attain the forementioned objectives, our Organization adopted many mechanisms and used many measures among which I would just venture to mention that ever since the inception of the Organization it has intensified its studies of the natural resources available in the Arab world. For example, studies were conducted on soils, on water resources - groundwater - surface or rainfall resources. Studies have also been conducted on climatology of each Arab country, and in addition, studies on institutions and agricultural structures in the Arab world.

Considering agriculture as the engine of sustainable development, our Organization has focused its attention on the training of human resources in numerous seminars and workshops conducted throughout the region on human resource development. We are aware as well of the importance of cooperation. The Organization established very close relationships with institutions and organizations of a regional and international nature active in the field of agriculture. For example, we established very close cooperation with the UN System and its Specialized Agencies, such as FAO here at its Headquarters in Rome or through its Regional Office in Cairo. Many have been the joint activities that we have conducted with FAO. Among them, I would just mention the various training sessions encounters among senior staff officials and the Working Group on Crop Production and Protection over which the Regional Office in Cairo presides and our organization is the Rapporteur of that working group.

We also cooperate quite closely with the Division of women and people's participation in development here in Rome and we consider it useful to reinforce and bolster that Division because it is a very important role that world women do play in development activities at large. We also cooperate quite closely with the Documentation Division and with EDI, IIMI, UNDP, and ICRASAT. Activities in the context of food security for example, is the project for the development of oilseeds in three Arab countries executed by the organization and UNDP. We are also involved in the project for the development of Agrarian Research with ISNAR and in workshops with IIMI, and also very much involved in desert locust control activities with EMPRESS.

We look forward to greater cooperation with FAO in the field of food security because, as we see it, this is a priority issue in the League of Arab States and our Organization. Our Organization provides the Technical Secretariat to the Food Security Commission of the League of Arab States. Some years ago the League of Arab States recommended to our Organization and to the Secretariat for Economic Issues that they pursue efforts to look into food security. In the light of this utmost responsibility, the General Assembly of the Organization set up a special Department to work on food security, a Department that is working tirelessly towards the attainment of this noble objective, that is, achieving Arab food security.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, I would like to inform you that the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development is very much in favour of the celebration of this World Food Summit scheduled to take place in November 1996 and we place all our capabilities at the full disposal of that.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, this has been a rapid overview of what the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development is doing in the field of food security. Lastly, I would like to extend to you and to all delegates present, full success in your meeting, and may peace reign with all of you.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques): Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie d'avoir bien voulu m'accorder la parole. Je vous félicite de votre façon de diriger nos travaux et, avec vous, je félicite les trois vice-présidents et le Secrétariat pour l'excellente documentation qui nous a été préparée.

Je désire adresser à M. le Directeur général des remerciements particuliers et des félicitations pour son intéressante déclaration sur la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation et pour les propositions évoquées en vue de la préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Je félicite également Mme Killingsworth pour son excellent travail qu'elle accomplit avec beaucoup de compétence et d'amour.

Je me réfère au point 4 de l'ordre du jour et, en particulier, à l'opportunité d'exploiter pleinement l'expérience et l'expertise d'autres organisations durant les préparatifs du Sommet. Par conséquent, je me permets de citer certaines questions qui ont été traitées au cours de la réunion du Comité d'aide au développement de l'OCDE, au niveau ministériel, qui s'est tenu les 3 et 4 mai 1995. A cette occasion, il a été confirmé que la coopération pour le développement doit être considérée comme un investissement essentiel pour l'avenir.

Le soutien accordé à l'effort de développement a sa part dans les progrès extraordinaires enregistrés sur le plan du bien-être économique et social. Le nombre de personnes qui ont vu s'accroître leurs revenus, s'allonger leur espérance de vie et s'améliorer leur éducation et leur accès aux services essentiels excède largement les deux milliards. La coopération pour le développement a en outre permis l'émergence de nouveaux partenaires économiques qui jouent un rôle de plus en plus dynamique et générant dans nos pays, de nouveaux courants d'échanges, de nouveaux investissements et de nouveaux emplois, ce qui nécessite des ajustements. Depuis 1990, les débouchés offerts aux exportations de la zone de l'OCDE par les pays en développement se sont accrus de 50 pour cent.

Il a été confirmé que s'attaquer aux causes profondes de la pauvreté est un objectif primordial. Les membres du CAD ont affirmé qu'ils centreront leur soutien sur des stratégies et programmes qui aideront efficacement les plus démunis à élargir le champ de leurs possibilités et à améliorer leurs conditions de vie. Les ministres ont déclaré que le soutien apporté à l'effort de développement reflète leur souci permanent pour la dignité humaine et le bien-être d'autrui. Malgré l'évolution prometteuse observée dans de nombreux pays en développement, plus d'un milliard de personnes vivent encore dans une extrême pauvreté. Or, en exploitant les enseignements de l'expérience, on a de bonnes chances de parvenir à faire reculer sensiblement la pauvreté dans les années à venir.

On a affirmé qu'il existe aujourd'hui des stratégies menant au succès et que l'action de coopération visera à aider nos partenaires à renforcer leur propre capacité de mettre en place ces éléments interdépendants, qui sont indispensables à un développement durable, en tenant compte de la situation et des engagements de chaque pays.

On a aussi affirmé que l'aide au développement est un complément vital d'autres ressources, en confirmant l'engagement à dégager des ressources substantielles pour la coopération au développement afin d'appuyer les efforts des pays et des peuples pour qu'ils s'aident eux-mêmes.

On a déclaré, entre autres, que les politiques suivies dans d'autres domaines doivent être compatibles avec les objectifs de développement. A ce propos, la collaboration avec les responsables des autres domaines de l'action publique a été assurée afin de faire en sorte que nos pays mènent des politiques économiques ouvertes et cohérentes à l'égard de nos partenaires dans le développement.

Sur l'effort de coopération, on a précisé que celui-ci doit être efficace et efficient et qu'à ce propos seront intensifiées les activités de coordination de l'aide, d'évaluation de l'efficacité de cette aide, de l'examen et de la mise en oeuvre par les pays des meilleures pratiques.

Une des préoccupations fondamentales de l'OCDE est que la coopération favorise un développement durable. Une coopération efficace pour le développement contribue à renforcer le système multilatéral et à promouvoir les objectifs de croissance génératrice d'emploi et de cohésion sociale à l'échelle internationale. Les membres de l'OCDE engagent dans cet effort des ressources substantielles avec des déboursements d'aide publique au développement qui atteignent plus de 50 milliards de dollars par an, soit 90 pour cent du total mondial.

Les membres du CAD ont réaffirmé l'engagement de s'employer ensemble à la mise en oeuvre des orientations énoncées pour la décennie en cours, à l'intégration des considérations de coopération en matière de développement dans les autres priorités de l'action publique des membres et à la préparation de stratégies ouvrant sur le siècle prochain.

Les considérations exposées font partie d'une déclaration en sept points intitulée "Vers un partenariat pour le développement dans le nouveau contexte mondial". Celle-ci définit les orientations fondamentales des efforts des membres en faveur d'un développement économique et social durable en mettant l'accent sur les enjeux de la sécurité de l'humanité à l'échelle mondiale, à l'approche du vingt-et-unième siècle.

Le Conseil de l'OCDE, qui s'est réuni, au niveau ministériel, les 23 et 24 mai, a soutenu la déclaration du CAD. Eu égard à l'interdépendance mondiale et à l'importance que continue de revêtir la coopération pour le développement, les ministres s'engagent à soutenir l'intégration des pays en développement et des économies en transition dans le système économique mondial, et à mettre en oeuvre les orientations stratégiques définies dans la déclaration "Vers un partenariat pour le développement dans le nouveau contexte mondial" adoptée par le CAD, réaffirmant notamment la détermination à mobiliser autant de ressources publiques que possible et à encourager les apports privés afin de soutenir les efforts déployés par les pays en développement pour répondre eux-mêmes à leurs besoins.

Dans un monde de plus en plus interdépendant, les ministres demandent à l'OCDE d'élaborer les orientations stratégiques de la coopération pour le développement au tournant du siècle afin de répondre à l'évolution de la situation sur les plans économique, humain, environnemental et technologique.

A propos de politiques, marchés et échanges agricoles dans les pays de l'OCDE, la conclusion de l'Accord d'Uruguay devrait entraîner une importante réforme agricole à long terme. Toutefois, davantage d'efforts seront nécessaires en vue de renforcer la réforme des politiques intérieures dans la plupart des pays de l'OCDE afin de réduire les distorsions dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de trouver des solutions aux problèmes touchant l'environnement, l'économie rurale, l'ajustement structurel du secteur agroalimentaire ainsi que l'application effective des politiques agricoles.

Les engagements pris par les ministres des pays membres de l'OCDE, soit au cours de la réunion du CAD des 3 et 4 mai, soit au cours de la réunion du Conseil des 23 et 24 mai 1995, offriront, je l'espère, de bons auspices à la préparation de l'important Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, duquel le monde entier attend avec impatience et grand espoir des décisions et des initiatives capables de résoudre les graves problèmes qui affligent des milliards d'êtres humains.

Parmi les travaux réalisés par l'OCDE ces derniers temps, je me permets de citer, entre autres, l'étude sur les perspectives agricoles 1995-2000, qui évaluent les tendances qui marqueront les marchés des principaux produits agricoles de la zone tempérée jusqu'en l'an 2000. Il s'agit d'une partie intégrante des activités régulières de l'OCDE cherchant à identifier et analyser les problèmes naissants pour permettre au plus tôt un dialogue sur l'action des pouvoirs publics. Ces perspectives agricoles fournissent notamment une estimation de l'incidence des changements récents de politiques agricoles sur les marchés et soulignent la nécessité d'autres changements.

Une autre publication intéressante est le rapport du Comité d'aide au développement pour 1994, qui rend compte de certains progrès réalisés et des déceptions éprouvées en 1994 dans la transition en cours vers un modèle nouveau et cohérent de développement durable. Il repose sur un postulat de départ qui est le suivant:

une coopération efficace pour le développement est de plus en plus nécessaire et les moyens d'y parvenir, Dieu merci, s'améliorent.

Une autre publication concerne les politiques et les échanges agricoles dans les pays d'Europe centrale et d'Europe de l'Est, dans certains nouveaux Etats indépendants, en Mongolie et en Chine: Suivi et perspectives 1995.

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie et vous prie de bien vouloir m'excuser si j'ai été trop long.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Señor Observador. Efectivamente hay algunos observadores que se han olvidado de mi petición de brevedad, que a estas alturas creo que es indispensable.

Mrs Lydie ROSSINI VAN HISSENHOVEN (Observateur du Conseil international des femmes): C'est au nom du Conseil international des femmes que je désire m'associer aux nombreuses délégations qui ont insisté sur un partenariat étroit avec les ONG et sur l'importance du rôle des femmes.

En ce qui concerne la reprise du dialogue FAO/ONG, comme l'a exprimé le représentant de l'Allemagne ce matin, je désire remercier le Directeur général, Monsieur Diouf, pour les trois réunions avec les représentants des ONG internationales résidant à Rome auxquelles il les a conviées depuis son mandat. La dernière a eu lieu le vendredi 2 juin pour nous donner, avec Madame Killingsworth et le Secrétariat, des informations sur le Sommet mondial et le Symposium de Québec d'octobre prochain.

Comme l'a dit le représentant de l'Espagne, les ONG "font beaucoup" et il est indispensable et nécessaire de les associer de manière concrète et pertinente, suivant leur diversité, afin de "faire mieux".

En ce qui concerne le rôle des femmes, nous avons étudié avec attention les documents 108/10, 12 et 18 pour lesquels nous félicitons le Secrétariat; le CIF ayant à coeur, depuis ses origines, 1888, les problèmes liés à la malnutrition, à la santé et à la sécurité alimentaire. C'est pourquoi il a participé aux conférences internationales mentionnées dans les documents, a été très actif dans les phases préparatoires de la CIN/ONG et s'apprête à participer à part entière à la quatrième Conférence mondiale des femmes à Pékin.

Le CIF a organisé des ateliers de formation et a participé aux projets gouvernementaux sur la nutrition, l'hygiène et les aliments, en Turquie et au Zimbabwe, par l'assistance bénévole des membres de ses conseils nationaux sur le terrain.

En Australie, le Conseil national a participé à la diffusion et l'élaboration d'un "encart" volet divulgatif sur les aliments en collaboration avec d'autres organisations. Par les plans d'action de nos commissions permanentes, le CIF a oeuvré pour la défense du consommateur par la requête d'un étiquetage plus compréhensif et rigoureux et a fait un relevé de données dans plusieurs pays sur ce point lié aux aliments.

Le Conseil national du Maroc a été très actif dans le développement des coopératives au profit des femmes à Temara et Bensliman, pour ne citer que quelques exemples. Je me permettrai de fournir à la FAO de plus amples informations sur la participation du CIF aux différents problèmes qui figurent au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Avant de conclure et en vous remerciant de votre attention, je voudrais me référer au document 108/12. A la dernière ligne du paragraphe 15 de la version anglaise, "the consequences of malnutrition for human development" rend mieux l'idée que la traduction française: "le développement de l'homme". Peut-être serait-il préférable de traduire par "l'être humain" ou "l'humanité". Dans le texte français du document 108/18, page 4, puis-je suggérer de ne pas associer les deux phrases "aider les groupes défavorisés et marginalisés à assurer leur rôle légitime dans la société et dans le cas des femmes reconnaître..." mais marquer, par un paragraphe isolé, et insister davantage sur le rôle important que jouent les femmes dans la production et la commercialisation ? Dans le même paragraphe, il est question de la contribution fondamentale à la vie familiale dans le monde en développement. Ceci me semble un peu limitatif. Je pense qu'elles n'y contribuent pas seulement dans le monde en développement mais dans le monde en général.

Ms Barbara DINHAM (Observer for Consumers International): Thank you for the opportunity to put to the Council the views of Consumers International and the Pesticides Action Network, which I am also representing at this meeting. We very much welcome the initiative to hold the World Food Summit and the structures proposed for NGO input. Consumers International and Pesticides Action Network are both large networks, keen to contribute their experience to the analyses presented to the World Food Summit to help shape the decisions and to contribute to implementation. Consumer International's 1996 World Consumer Rights Day will focus on the right to safe food. They will aim to link the material presented, where relevant, to the World Food Summit. We urge the Secretariat for the World Food Summit to develop clear and democratic structures so as to allow many NGO voices to be heard, particularly those in developing countries and those working with or formed by rural and agricultural communities.

We note and welcome the emphasis throughout documents CL 108/10 and CL 108/12 on food security at a local and household level and the emphasis on equity, distribution of and access to food. In order that this should become more than a slogan, we urge that the Conference on World Food Security take very seriously the matter of farmer and community participation in the process of evolving more food-secure regions. This will also need resources for education and training services.

Some NGO concerns I would like to bring to the attention of the Council particularly relate to the references in CL 108/12 to the statement "macro-economic policies that have proven to be conducive to sustained progress towards food for all must be vigorously pursued". This needs very close examination and more explicit reference to which macro-economic policies the statement refers to, as many previous such policies have failed. Very different and diverse cultural conditions and economic strengths may require very different macro-economic policies. Likewise, it cannot be assumed that in all circumstances the free-trade policies supported in the Uruguay Round and the Agriculture Agreement of GATT and designed to integrate the world economy will address household food security. We ask FAO to consider this issue in one of the technical papers in preparation for the World Food Summit.

NGOs working in rural areas frequently conclude that land reform is crucial in many agricultural contexts, and this has not been fully addressed in the draft papers to date. Given the emphasis on household food security, the stress on prioritizing productivity in areas where the natural resource base can tolerate intensity should be balanced with stressing priority to food-insecure regions, such as semi-arid zones, and to crops consumed by the poor. Supporting the populations in these regions and encouraging stability and land reform where necessary may also be part of a strategy to address the food/population nexus, strengthening agricultural economies and communities.

Many NGOs welcomed the initiatives of the sustainable agriculture and rural development approach and are uneasy with the terminology "a new green revolution" in spite of assurances that it will maintain a social dimension. The green revolution is associated not only with increasing food production but also with increasing inequity, the creation of landlessness, as well as intensive inputs of synthetic chemicals. Given that health and environmental problems with pesticides have not decreased, as the paper COAG 95/8 drew attention to, and that industry predicts that 30 percent of agro-chemical sales will be in developing countries by the year 2000, and that pesticides sales overall are now increasing, we believe that sustainable agriculture and rural development must form the bedrock of a more food-secure future.

Evlogui BONEV (United Nations Development Programme): The Administrator of UNDP has asked me to pledge UNDP's full support to the FAO's initiative to convene a World Food Summit in November 1996. Many speakers have stressed the importance of the involvement in and contributions by other relevant organizations and agencies to the Summit. UNDP will be delighted to play a supportive role in the Conference if asked to do so. Our joint food security initiative, the Joint Agreement on Sustainable Food Security, signed by the heads of UNDP and FAO last September, will be, in our view, a vehicle in attaining the goals of the Summit. Two follow-up joint meetings have already been held: one in December 1994 in New York and another in May 1995 in Rome. The two meetings gave us the hope and now the confirmation that we will in future actively pursue food security with FAO based on a broad definition of sustainable food security, aiming both at access to food for all and at increased productivity. Mr Chairman, UNDP also pledges full support to FAO's drive to advance sustainable agriculture and rural development, with concerns over poverty and the environment being at the top of our Agenda.

Finally, UNDP has decided to work closely with FAO and other partners in future in furthering IPM programmes. UNDP appreciates the leading role FAO has taken in this on operational grounds and in building alliances for Integrated Pest Management.

EL PRESIDENTE: Concluimos nuestra lista de oradores y me permito pasar la palabra al señor Hjort para que responda.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I will take a few general points and Mrs Killingsworth will respond to the rest; in other words, I will take the easy ones and she can take the rest. I want to start by again expressing my appreciation for a very rich set of comments and guidance. In many respects, this is a repeat of the Committee on Food Security, when your comments and views were very helpful in the redrafting of this document. The comments which you have made this time will again give us guidance as to the content of the documents. I want to note the specific suggestion of the Ambassador of Chile with respect to an additional meeting of the Committee on Food Security. I have not heard anybody speak against that but I have heard several speak in support of it. In view of that wide support, I can assure you that in Friday's session, when you consider the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, in accordance with the standing financial regulations, we will give you an estimate of the additional costs associated with a September 1996 meeting of the Committee on Food Security.

I have one point to make in response to the large number of comments about the involvement of NGOs and the private sector. In that regard, I call attention to the Director-General's statement that, "Several Member Nations have answered my request to appoint a national secretary to liaise with the Secretary-General of the Summit, who is heading a small coordinating unit at FAO Headquarters. The NGOs and the private sector would be involved throughout the process, from preparation to implementation of the Summit's conclusions." In a recent round of meetings with the Permanent Representatives in Rome the Director-General made clear that he would expect and hope that the national secretariats would include representation from all of the important components of your societies. After all, when it comes to action on and implementation of whatever comes out of the Summit, it will be private agents and NGOs generally which will have the big task of implementing those actions. Governments have an essential role with respect to policy but when it comes to action, it is not only FAO or other intergovernmental organizations; it is the citizens of your countries who will ensure its success or otherwise.

In answer to a specific question as to the plans for the NGOs, I could say that for national non-governmental organizations and interests, very broadly defined, it is up to you. We would expect that you would involve all sections of your societies. As far as international non-governmental organizations, associations, bodies, unions and so forth, Mrs Killingsworth will speak about that.

The only other points I wish to address are with respect to the comments on poverty and hunger. After listening to the debate here and at the Committee on Food Security, it is evident that we will have to do more analyses of the linkages between poverty alleviation and hunger. At the end of the CFS I reminded you that you had just finished participating in a social summit for development where the main theme was poverty alleviation, and that certain commitments arose out of that on the part of your governments and peoples. I was hoping that some of the documentation in the preparations for the social summit would be in such a state that we could draw upon them and utilize them for our own Summit. I am told that there really were no such firm documents leading up to the social summit, so we may have to prepare one. Of course, our assessment document, one of the technical documents that is referenced in your paper, will go into this matter and I take the guidance to be that we will have to go more deeply into it than we might have considered doing before. The assessment document will have to and will identify regional and sub-regional differences. There were concerns and comments about where these differences emerge. This would be in the assessment document, which analyses what has happened in the past, where problems lie and where progress has been made.

Related to poverty and hunger are access and production. Increasing productivity and production of food does enhance access.

It has a big impact in least developed countries, less impact in other developing countries and in industrialized countries it hardly has any impact at all. It is this realization that agricultural production and so on cannot

ensure of itself food security that is the foundation for having a World Food Summit. I am sure that very few of your Ministers of Agriculture have the mandate to do all that is necessary to ensure access. Usually it is a good number of Ministries who share in that task and therefore it is essential to have a Summit of Heads of State or Government as they are really the only ones who have the mandate at a policy level for all aspects of access.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Hjort por sus comentarios. Ahora tiene la palabra la señora Killingsworth para hacer los suyos.

Ms K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary-General, World Food Summit): Going on from what Mr Hjort said, I have a very few comments concerning the documents themselves and I would like to answer some queries concerning the involvement of all actors on the national and international scene in the preparatory process for the Summit.

Mr Chairman, as I mentioned in my introduction, this document is an outline and we appreciate the comments that have been made; I would like to assure you that in preparing the full text we will rectify our sins both of commission and omission, in particular on the various points made including the results of Cairo, the Barcelona Declaration, the Non-Aligned Movement. We have several others coming up including Beijing and these will all feed into the process.

These are not the only strands that we have to pull together in the next few months. A number of countries have asked if they might send further comments to us in the near future. Of course, any which are available now we would be happy to have, but may I suggest that the mechanism of the National Secretariat which Mr Hjort was just mentioning could be an ideal channel for transmitting the fruits of reflection at national level now and in the months to come for inclusion in our collective thought process. These could also be from representatives of the private sector and NGOs who we hope will be very closely involved at national level. There the role of National Secretary or focal point will be very important.

I would like to mention the very interesting information passed on, I believe, by the Delegate of Spain who indicated they have set up a multi-disciplinary coordination mechanism at national level to bring in inputs from various ministries as well as from non-governmental sources. We will be using that channel of communication to send out also the technical documents as they come out in the next few months and we hope that in feedback we will receive comments on these documents as well.

Since a number of questions were asked about the technical papers I would just like to clarify a point. You have a list of the papers in the document before you which are very close to completion, but completion still in a provisional form because until we translate them and therefore can circulate them widely in all official languages we really cannot pretend to have canvassed a broad spectrum of views. Therefore, we attach great importance in the coming months to gathering comments from all sources in order to prepare the documents in final form much closer to the time of the Summit.

Going on from there, Mr Chairman, to some of the points made about involvement in the process, there were some suggestions that it might be necessary to have inter-sessional meetings or working groups, I believe mostly in 1996. I would only point out we would share the concern expressed by the delegate of Belgium concerning costs. Even informal mechanisms have their costs. It seems to me, as Mr Hjort pointed out, that there is an evolving consensus on the role which could be played by the CFS (which, of course, is an existing body) as the focal point for carrying forward the process in 1996, perhaps envisaging a meeting in September 1996 to synthesize the results of Regional Conferences.

Then we come to the question of involvement of other organizations, both governmental/intergovernmental and non-governmental. As we have also pointed out to the Committee on World Food Security, one of the first actions which the Director-General took last autumn in fact was to approach a number of organizations, including the International Financing Institutions, IF AD and the World Food Programme, to request their collaboration in preparing some technical documents for consideration as part of the series which we are developing. We have had very positive replies. These documents are also in preparation and we hope to be bringing them out some time in the future. Our idea is that we are in fact inviting them to join us in a process

of joint reflection. We therefore bring to bear additional expertise on those particular issues where cooperation will produce something which is, let us say, greater than the sum of its parts.

In addition, of course, our sister organizations are normally invited to our meetings. In fact, there was a very constructive and informative intervention by the World Bank at the CFS and one from the observer at the UNDP today. I think as the process goes on we can see there will be a number of ways in which we can develop this cooperation around important specific issues where we will seek assistance from the organizations particularly specialized in the different subject matters. Of course, as Mr Hjort reminds me, they will be invited to the Regional Conferences as well as the CFS, as is the normal practice.

Then, of course, comes the question of NGOs. We have had some interesting interventions this afternoon from the observers of the NGOs, which is just one more indication of the interest which is already becoming extremely apparent in the NGO community both in the Summit and in the preparatory process.

We, as a Secretariat, have preferred to wait at least until this point, developing our document primarily with you, because we feel we need to know what your view is on the content of the Summit documents and how you would like to see them formulated. I think there has been support during the debate today for us now to also seek comments from the non-governmental sector, and that we will certainly do. For other forms of outreach, I think to a large extent this will depend on what the NGOs can come and propose to us, what we can do together within our very limited resources, and what we may possibly be able to find extra budgetary support to do.

With that, Mr Chairman, you have said you want your report on this item to be very concise. The Secretariat will certainly attempt to be concise in producing a draft for you, to comply with that recommendation. I would only like to say that we are very happy to have Verbatim Reports to consult in the coming months in order to benefit fully from the many and detailed interventions that have been made on this item.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señora Killingsworth por sus aclaraciones. Le pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si tienen algún comentario ulterior que hacer.

En ese caso me voy a permitir resumir nuestros debates. Quizás mi resumen será un poco más largo que lo que vamos a tener en el Consejo, pero quiero de todas maneras dar una idea, una sensación de lo que, por lo menos desde la mesa, pude recoger de lo que dijeron ustedes.

En primer lugar, sobre los acuerdos generales del Consejo. El Consejo agradeció a la Secretaría de la FAO los documentos preparados que consideró fueron una base útil para sus debates. El Consejo respaldó plenamente la iniciativa del Director General de llevar a cabo una Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, que consideró oportuna y útil. El Consejo espera que ese evento desate acciones concretas, eficaces e inmediatas, tanto en la comunidad internacional como en cada país y en la sociedad entera. Se insistió en que la participación de los Estados Miembros sea al más alto nivel posible respetando la disposición y características de cada país. Se está invitando a jefes de estado para la celebración de la Cumbre. También se apoyó que en su preparación, la Cumbre involucre a una amplia participación tanto de organizaciones internacionales como del sector social, académico, privado y de la sociedad civil en general, incluyendo, desde luego, a las organizaciones no gubernamentales.

El Consejo en general, recomienda, por tanto, a la 28ª Conferencia de la FAO que apruebe la iniciativa del Director General sobre la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, a celebrarse en noviembre de 1996 y, que prevea los preparativos y condiciones necesarios para su exitosa realización.

El Consejo tomó nota con aprecio de la respuesta del Gobierno italiano y su disposición a apoyar a la FAO en la celebración de dicha Cumbre. El Consejo convino en que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial sea el punto focal para darle seguimiento a los trabajos preparatorios y que en principio se celebre una reunión adicional a la de enero, en 1996, que se podría prever para septiembre de ese año.

Se reconoció que la nueva documentación presentada al Consejo sobre este tema tenía una buena calidad y recogía adecuadamente el debate del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Se solicitó que la documentación futura a prepararse, se distribuya a la mayor brevedad posible, con el propósito de lograr la más amplia

participación de todos los sectores y, desde luego, de los Estados Miembros que están involucrados en el proceso preparatorio. Esto incluye también, los documentos de carácter regional que deberían estar disponibles con suficiente antelación. Se insistió en que los documentos deben ser breves, ir al punto y en su caso sugerir medidas de acción concretas. Su formato comprendería una serie de principios o compromisos básicos y complementados por un Plan de Acción, o como algunas delegaciones sugirieron una estrategia. Para ser breves, en esos documentos se hará referencia a las conclusiones alcanzadas en otros foros, inclusive la Conferencia Mundial de Población de El Cairo, la futura Conferencia sobre la Mujer en Beijing, así como otros foros también de carácter regional.

En lo que se refiere al proceso preparativo, brevemente, se insistió en una amplia participación de todos los Estados Miembros, como de los diversos sectores de la sociedad, también se pidieron aclaraciones respecto a asegurar que este proceso de consulta amplio pueda conducirse eficazmente entre las reuniones previstas que tocarán este tema. Para ello, hubo una propuesta generalizada de que el Consejo supervise el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, e inclusive varios delegados indicaron que podría considerarse por dicho Comité, en enero, de la creación de un Grupo de Trabajo, o un mecanismo similar, para supervisar, tanto los documentos, su contenido, su calidad, y su distribución. Yo considero al respecto que será el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, en enero, el que decida sobre la conveniencia de tal mecanismo o, quizás, si lo determina así, la Conferencia de nuestra Organización en octubre.

Se hizo también referencia sobre el canal para conducir los comentarios y las diversas posiciones dentro de los países, se propuso que se constituyeran Secretarías Nacionales, mientras que la participación de Organizaciones Regionales podría asegurarse a través de las Conferencias Regionales.

Finalmente, en lo que se refiere a la declaración de políticas y el marco normativo, se reprodujo en cierta medida el debate que se celebró en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, indicando que esta está íntimamente vinculada a la problemática de la pobreza y que, desde luego, había que considerar en este contexto la problemática específica, no sólo a nivel mundial, sino también regional e inclusive de país a país, así como de ciertos grupos humanos incluidos, entre estos, las mujeres embarazadas, las poblaciones indígenas, minusválidos y que, desde luego, el problema en general de la seguridad alimentaria estaba relacionado al acceso y, al respecto, se identificó el acceso para las familias y para los individuos.

Se destacó igualmente, la importancia en la generación de empleos y de las oportunidades de ingreso y el papel destacado de la mujer en el desarrollo. Varios países también indicaron que el problema de la seguridad alimentaria no debía verse sólo en el contexto de su liga con la pobreza, sino que tenía otras dimensiones y al respecto se hizo referencia, tanto a cuestiones de carácter ambiental, como al de la sostenibilidad agropecuaria, la preservación del medio ambiente y de la insalubridad en el manejo de alimentos, la solución de los problemas de desnutrición, la comercialización, distribución, acceso y consumo de alimentos.

Finalmente, deseo hacer referencia al problema planteado respecto a resolver la ecuación que se consideró tenía una implicación ética entre el incremento en la producción y productividad agropecuaria, que tienen un elemento tecnológico, los problemas de la sostenibilidad de la producción y el deterioro del medio ambiente, que conllevan también la problemática específica de la contaminación y la erosión y, finalmente, el elemento relacionado con el crecimiento demográfico y el crecimiento de la demanda y la diversificación del consumo de alimentos. Estas cuestiones deberán ser tratadas de manera clara en los documentos.

Solamente me queda mencionar, respecto del Plan de Acción, que el Consejo coincidió en que dicho Plan o estrategia, debe ser sólido, viable y ejecutable de inmediato, que deberían aclararse los aspectos que abarcaría dicho Plan, identificar puntos de acción, que se debía establecer una clara colaboración con organismos internacionales y con otros sectores de la sociedad civil, con organizaciones no gubernamentales y, se propuso que se incluya una sección que identifique el mecanismo de monitoreo o seguimiento, y una lista de temas de acción a seguir. En particular, la acción propuesta y responsable, efectos esperados y resultados previsibles, así como precisar la instancia de los mecanismos responsables de supervisar las acciones acordadas.

Hubo muchas otras propuestas y planteamientos, los verbatim los recogen adecuadamente, pero creo que como este Consejo desea formular un informe, como nos ha recordado usted señora Killingsworth, muy ejecutivo, el informe se deberá dedicar a estas cuestiones de carácter operativo y los distinguidos delegados

podrán leer las múltiples proposiciones en el verbatim, - estoy seguro que la Secretaría ha tomado debida nota de ellos -, que sus consideraciones ahora y posteriormente serán utilizadas para forjar documentos claros, breves, concisos y útiles para la acción.

Hasta aquí el resumen de nuestros debates y si no hay ninguna otra observación me queda simplemente mencionar que las delegaciones que habían propuesto presentar adicciones o cambios a la Declaración de Québec, lo han hecho y, estamos en espera de constituir este Grupo de Trabajo que el Consejo ha decidido trabajará el sábado o, si se puede, antes de esa fecha. Los delegados, por tanto, están invitados a identificarse ante el Secretario General con el propósito de hacer los arreglos pertinentes para la celebración de dicho Grupo de Trabajo. El documento se facilitará a todos ustedes para la realización de los trabajos de dicho grupo que estará disponible el día de mañana.

Distinguidos delegados, si no hay ninguna otra observación sobre este Tema 4, lo damos por concluido y me voy a permitir invitar, en vista de que todavía tenemos algunos minutos antes de suspender la reunión y poder asistir a la invitación que nos ha hecho el Secretario de Estado Robichaud, del Canadá, pedir que pasemos al Tema 10 de nuestra Agenda que corresponde al Informe del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos.

Así lo hacemos y le agradezco a la señora Killingsworth su asistencia.

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

ATIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

10. Report of the Sixtieth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems

10. Rapport de la soixantième session du Comité des produits

10. Informe del 60° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos

EL PRESIDENTE: Pasamos al Tema 10 que es el Informe del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos. Ustedes verán un recuadro al inicio del Informe en donde se señalan las cuestiones a consideración del Consejo. Les hago notar que lo que este Consejo debe hacer es aprobar el Informe. Les recuerdo que las discusiones respecto de los diversos temas fueron ya realizadas y yo, por tanto, espero que sean ustedes breves al referirse a este Informe y que podamos compactar todo nuestro debate respecto de este punto, el Tema 6, el 7 y el 8, de aquí a mañana, para evitar una sesión nocturna, que de una vez les amenazo vamos a tener si no terminamos el día de mañana con la revisión de todos estos informes.

Para presentarlo le pido al doctor de Haen que tome la palabra.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Thank you, Mr Chairman. It's a great pleasure for me to address this Council again. At this late hour, you may be somewhat exhausted, but by reminding you of the very refreshing meeting that the Committee on Commodity Problems had earlier this year, this may at least be a pleasure to recall that this session was most fruitful, considered by all who spoke as well as by the Secretariat. We received a lot of guidance and enjoyed a very lively debate on issues of interest to trade.

The Committee observed, in reviewing the commodity situation and outlook and in follow-up to the Conference Resolution 2/79 which is on commodity trade, protectionism, and agricultural adjustment, a number of issues and debated them. I will not go on to the details of the Committee's conclusions as these are contained in paragraphs 6 to 8 of the report which is before you.

The Committee did observe that support measures and protectionism remained large and world agriculture was still conditioned by use of export subsidies and domestic support programmes. However, Mr Chairman, the Committee also concluded that important efforts to liberalize trade had been made and that the process initiated by the Uruguay Round provided reasons for optimism.

The Committee noted that commodity problems and protectionism were only partially dealt with in the Uruguay Round and there was continued need to monitor developments as required by Resolution 2/79, and the Committee concluded these discussions by identifying priority areas which the Council may take into account when considering the adoption of the report. They are set forth in paragraph 12 of the report.

The Committee undertook a substantive review of the work of its subsidiary bodies, and that is reported in paragraphs 13 to 26. In brief, Mr Chairman, the Committee considered the groups had undertaken a broad and varied spectrum of activities and had noted that the interdisciplinary approach needed for the work of these groups drew upon expertise within FAO as well as from many other organizations.

In this context the Committee took several decisions which the Council has to consider for adoption which, as the Committee considered, would improve the functioning of the intergovernmental groups. These are presented in paragraph 21 of the report and they cover such things as documentation reports, frequency of sessions, grouping of sessions and means for streamlining the discussions and the debate.

Mr Chairman, the Secretariat has taken careful note of these decisions, decisions as recommended to the Council by the Committee which will be implemented during the next biennium and, of course, as instructed, will ensure that the item is on the Agenda for its next session provided that the Council endorses them. If you count, distinguished members of the Council, you will find out that recommendations by the Committee imply that the total number of meeting days of these intergovernmental groups for the next biennium would be reduced from 41 to 23, a considerable reduction in the length of sessions.

When reviewing the work of the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal, another item on the Agenda of the Committee, delegates welcomed the incorporation of the CSD principles of surplus disposal and consultative obligations in the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. It was also recognized that formation of the WTO Committee on Agriculture would increase the importance of the Committee on Surplus Disposal, and several proposals were made regarding the future work of the Sub-Committee, bearing in mind the formation of the WTO. These are found in paragraphs 25 and 26 of the report.

The Committee also considered the assessment that FAO had prepared on the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture. In fact, that took quite a considerable part of the debate in the Committee session, and this debate is summarized in paragraphs 28 to 34 of the report. A number of issues were raised by delegations including -I only highlight two or three - the need to consider agriculture as part of the total Uruguay Round package, the changing policy agenda caused by changes in world market conditions and the possible impact on preferential arrangements and implications that the agreement might hold for developing countries. The Committee also recommended priority areas for post-Uruguay Round activities of the Secretariat and these are listed in paragraph 34.

I only now have to refer very briefly to the other substantive item on the agenda of the CCP, which was the consideration of links between trade, the environment and sustainable agricultural development where a tentative methodology was developed by the Secretariat for possible future elaboration on measurement of the impact of Environment Regulations on Trade. The Committee, in concluding its deliberations on these links between trade and the environment, endorsed the programme of work in this area, which is set out in paragraph 42 of its report. With this, I hope to refer to the main paragraphs which might facilitate the Council's consideration of this item and hopefully facilitate the adoption of the Committee's report. I thank you for your attention, Mr Chairman.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor de Haen, por sus comentarios introductorios. Se abre el debate sobre este tema y les recuerdo que la decisión que debe tomar el Consejo es la de aprobar el informe. Voy a tomar nota lentamente de los oradores, y les pido que si alguien tiene alguna urgencia por ofrecer sus comentarios antes o después, me lo haga saber, porque no puedo distinguirlo en función de los países que levantan su bandera. Parece que no hay ningún delegado u observador que desee intervenir; en este caso, lo único que hacemos es endosar el informe del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos unánimemente. Parece que el Sr. Delegado de Australia desea intervenir.

Kevin O'BRIEN (Australia): Australia is pleased to give its overall endorsement to the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems as a considered assessment of many of the issues and challenges facing world agricultural markets and the important and constructive work that FAO is currently undertaking.

In particular, we would endorse the areas for follow-up work identified in paragraph 12 of the report, especially those aimed at facilitating international trade, understanding the problems caused for many of the countries by trade protectionism and restriction on investment and encouraging a process of on-going agricultural adjustment to allow countries to take advantage of the opportunities created by the Uruguay Round Agreement. We believe that these tasks will contribute towards a global environment which will allow the less restricted movement of commodities on international markets and, through the provision of timely and accurate information and expert advice, assist developing countries to expand existing markets and develop new ones.

We are aware, Mr Chairman, that a number of delegates have expressed reservations about the Uruguay Round Agreement on agriculture in terms of the impact on their domestic economies. If anything, one criticism that could be levelled at the CCP report is that it fails to place the significant progress achieved in the Uruguay Round in its proper context. Too much attention perhaps is given to the specific outcomes of the Round rather than to the underlying problems in world markets that it has revealed. It is worth emphasizing that the difficult situation in which many food-importing developing countries now find themselves is the result of long-standing distortions in international agricultural trade, compounded by flawed domestic policies in many developed countries. We share these concerns. This is part of the tyranny of protectionism that breeds a form of dependence on support and trade restrictive measures.

The Uruguay Round outcome highlights these serious defects in the world agricultural trading system. It has not caused them. To blame the Round is a classic case of "shooting the messenger" because we either do not like or understand the message. For some countries, the situation is made worse because they did not expect a substantive outcome in the Round and did not, or have only belatedly, put in place a series of domestic policy adjustments to take account of the new trading environment for agriculture. Sadly, for a number of developing countries they have not had the resources or the capacity to put more appropriate agricultural policy arrangements in place and they have been attracted to or encouraged to follow the misguided policy settings of many developed economies.

Mr Chairman, we believe there is hope. We would draw attention to the statement in paragraph 7 of the report that, for developing countries as a whole, the price index of their agricultural, fishery and forestry export commodities rose by over 20 percent in 1994, compared with a 2 percent increase for commodities produced by developed countries. We are confident that following the progressive implementation of the disciplines agreed in the Uruguay Round, this can lead to a continued strengthening of conditions on world agricultural markets.

We are conscious that not all countries are confident that they can benefit from these improving prospects. Our aim is to create the conditions where all agricultural producers can look to the future with some confidence and we continue to emphasize the important role of FAO in ensuring that the benefits of international agricultural reform and trade liberalization in goods, services and investment flow through to all participating members, particularly the least developed and low-income food-deficit member countries.

We notice that some members are still anxious to justify the continuation of their restrictions on agricultural trade based on the multi-functional nature of their agricultural industries. We believe this to be a misguided notion, lacking a degree of sensitivity as to its adverse impacts on other countries. This multi-functional nature of agriculture is a characteristic of agricultural activity in all producing countries, although reflected in slightly different ways in each case. For some, agriculture is critical to address their most basic poverty and malnourishment concerns. For some too it is the major source of employment and economic activity with up to 20 percent of their work force engaged in agricultural activity. For others, it is a major engine of growth in upgrading to value added products and downstream food processing. For still others, agriculture is a major concern to limit the depopulation of rural areas and to maintain the responsible care of their fragile resource environments.

Each of these cases, we believe, highlights the special nature of agricultural activity. All are typical of different economies at different stages of their economic development. While we share the desire of all

members to recognize the important contribution that agriculture makes to our respective economies, and to have appropriate support and assistance policies in place, the manner in which this support and assistance is provided is critical to the future well-being of agricultural markets internationally.

We cannot join with others who seek to intervene in domestic or international markets in a trade-distorting way, or to shift on to world producers some of the pain caused by inappropriate agricultural policies at home. This view was soundly endorsed by the conclusions of the Uruguay Round Agreement which for the first time has introduced disciplines on trade-distorting forms of support, whether income transfers to producers, import barriers and non-tariff measures and export subsidization practices.

Mr Chairman, we are pleased to welcome the decision of this Committee to strengthen and streamline the role and functioning of the intergovernmental groups, especially the need for documentation to be more analytical and concise, discussions to concentrate on substantive issues and for reports to focus mainly on conclusions and recommendations.

These changes are fully consistent with the efforts of the FAO to move towards more targeted and constructive meetings and is a useful first step in upgrading and enhancing its reporting and assessment procedures. We believe it is important for the work of the IGG's to complement those of other commodity organizations and to operate with a clear purpose especially where an identified need exists.

In this context, we are pleased to note that Malaysia has offered to convene an international consultation on tropical fruit in early 1996, with technical input from FAO, which would assist in disseminating information on production, exports and imports of tropical fruits. We are happy to consider the most appropriate means or mechanism for continuing this valuable process in future.

We are also pleased to join with other members of the Committee in welcoming the incorporation of CSD principles on surplus disposal and consultative obligations into the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. We believe this gives proper recognition to FAO's important work in this area. Taking account of the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, which provides an internationally agreed definition of food aid, and the work currently being undertaken by the OECD on international disciplines on officially sponsored export credits which should help to further differentiate commercial and aid-based transactions, we are pleased to join a consensus for a review by the CSD of so called "grey area" measures. We would not, however, support any activities or changes in usual marketing requirements that give rise to increased uncertainty about the potential of aid donations to disrupt commercial sales.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Australia supports further work on the links between trade, environment and sustainable agricultural development proposed in paragraph 42 of the Report. We would also draw the Council's attention to the recent decision taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development on Chapter 14 of Agenda 21 on promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development. In particular, the Commission noted the need for a comprehensive examination of the environmental consequences of the use of agricultural practices and policies, including agricultural subsidies, in all countries and their impact on sustainable agriculture and rural development. We see this examination as a key issue in the Commission's request for the FAO to analyse the implications for sustainable agriculture and rural development of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Mientras hablaba el Sr. Delegado de Australia se han ido apuntando varios otros oradores. Vamos a proseguir otros diez minutos, luego levantaremos la sesión y continuaremos mañana.

Dato' Ahmad Zabri IBRAHIM (Malaysia): I thank you for giving me the floor. I know that everybody is tired and wants to go home. I shall be very brief.

Again my delegation would like to commend the Secretariat for presenting clear issues needing attention and decision as given in the preface of the Report. On the subject of the review of the subsidiary bodies, my delegation is of the opinion that it is timely that the number of intergovernmental commodities of the IGG be slightly reduced through regrouping and forming of sub-groups within the mini-class of commodity. Back-to-

back meetings should be held within the framework of the main class of commodity. This is to be done without sacrificing the quality and purpose and the meaning of those commodities. At a later stage perhaps full amalgamation can be introduced. It is also necessary, therefore, to determine which commodities have graduated from the group and those that need to be maintained. For those that have graduated and consequently do not require an intergovernmental forum, they may not need only inter-monitoring support of the FAO. Those Members' preoccupation with an intergovernmental commodity group should be one that examines new commodities requiring attention. My delegation is in complete agreement that the meetings of the IGG should utilize the procedure of re-negotiations within the groups and that discussion should be limited to substantial issues.

On the subject of tropical fruits, and almost all developing countries strongly support that intergovernmental forum, my delegation requests that the FAO provides the necessary budget for the forum to move smoothly as soon as Member Nations make decisions regarding this subject during the first international consultation with FAO involvement.

Malaysia, on this part, has already been mentioned by the distinguished delegate from Australia who has already expressed his offer to hold the first international consultation on this commodity in Guadalupe in early 1996. In this Council meeting my delegation wishes to reiterate the offer. Steps are already being taken in my country towards convening this first conference which shall be held with the worldwide participation. Private sectors are encouraged to participate in this consultation and depending on their number, a separate agenda can be included. Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation joins the other nations in endorsing the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems 60th Session.

Akihiko UDOGUCHI (Japan): I am very happy to be the third speaker on this agenda item and following the Distinguished Delegates of Australia and Malaysia and I am also glad to endorse the outcome of the Committee on Commodity Problems. Having said so I would like to point out a couple of points to which we hope the activities of CCP should pay due attention in the future.

The first point relates to the reorganization of the method of convening the intergovernmental groups. Basically we welcome this change and trial of back-to-back convening the intergovernmental groups. We hope that this trial will bring about improvement in cost-effectiveness and real cost production and also hope that progress and results relative to this trial will be reported to member countries in the future. Also, we consider that this change should aim at cost reduction of intergovernmental groups and should be carefully implemented so as not to impose additional budgetary burdens to member countries as hosts of meetings and sponsors of them, of course, excluding voluntary cases.

My second point relates to trade and environment activities. Currently these national and international organizations are also considering this matter and they are UNCTAD, WTO, OECD, etc. It is very important that FAO cooperate with those organizations relating to this matter and my delegation would like to stress that FAO, as the centre of excellence in this area of food and agriculture, should make a detailed and balanced analysis, taking into account the important missions of this Organization such as addressing the world food security problem and exploring for sustainable agricultural and rural development.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we hope that in this kind of analysis of trade and environment, not only the impact of environmental measures to trade, but also the impact of trade measures or trade liberalization to sustainable agricultural and environment should also be carefully dealt with.

EL PRESIDENTE: Cuando ustedes proponen que se establezcan lazos de cooperación con otras organizaciones deben considerar que eso tiene, obviamente, un costo, pero que en algún momento futuro esta Organización podría considerar alguna forma más barata de establecer esas fórmulas de cooperación, sobre todo se involucra mandar, o quizá la permanencia de un individuo, o un grupo de individuos, ante tales organizaciones. Quizá el uso de alguna otra fórmula, inclusive electrónica podría utilizarse para asegurar esa cooperación.

En fin, distinguidos delegados, era un comentario marginal.

Con Japón concluimos el grupo de oradores de esta tarde respecto al Tema 10. Les invito a que estén en punto mañana a las 9.30 para terminar nuestros trabajos sobre este tema. Mañana tendremos que concluir con este tema, el Tema 6, el Tema 7 y el Tema 8 de nuestra agenda. Si es necesario ocupar una sesión nocturna, así lo haremos.

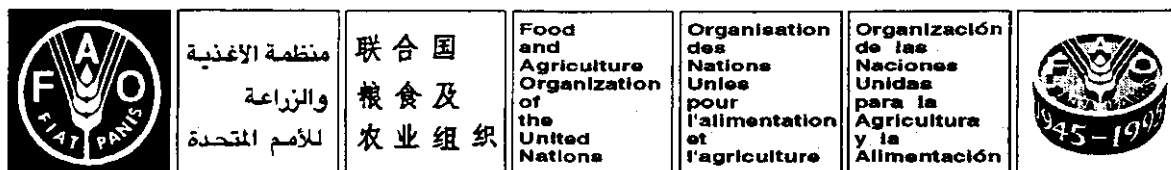
Bien, distinguidos delegados, levanto la cuarta sesión.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión à las 18.00 horas.

7 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108° período de sesiones

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA**

7 June 1995

**The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding**

**La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil**

**Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo**

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días distinguidos delegados y observadores, señoras y señores, se abre la Quinta Sesión de Trabajo de nuestro Consejo. Tengo varios anuncios que hacerles, en primer lugar, como ustedes pueden ver en la Orden del Día, en el documento CL 108/OD/3, hay un último párrafo donde se habla del Grupo oficioso de trabajo, sobre el proyecto de declaración sobre la agricultura y la alimentación. Ustedes notarán que se está solicitando a los Estados Miembros de esta Organización que deseen participar en dicho Grupo de Trabajo, que se inscriban a la mayor brevedad posible con el Secretario General del Consejo. Les repito, estamos en espera de que los que quieran participar en el Grupo Oficioso de Trabajo sobre el Proyecto de Declaración de Québec, se inscriban con el Secretario General del Consejo.

Al respecto, también deseo informarles, que se ha distribuido ya el texto, la nota, sobre ese Proyecto, conforme a las enmiendas que algunos de ustedes han presentado por escrito, a la Secretaría. Ustedes recordarán, cuando tratamos este Tema, el 21, el día lunes por la mañana, varias delegaciones hicieron mención de su intención de ofrecer comentarios y enmiendas a dicho Proyecto. La Secretaría ha recibido aquellas propuestas y éstas están incorporadas ya en un documento que ha sido distribuido en los tres idiomas. Les pido, por tanto, que lo revisen.

También les advierto, que es posible que dicho Grupo de Trabajo comience antes del sábado, pero esto depende de que el Comité Técnico que está tratando el Proyecto de Código de Conducta sobre Pesca Responsable, termine antes de lo esperado.

El segundo punto que deseo poner en su atención, es mi sugerencia de que, sobre todo los distinguidos observadores de éste Consejo puedan limitar sus intervenciones y, me refiero, particularmente, a aquéllos que no son Estados Miembros de la Organización. Yo sé que muchas organizaciones que participan aquí están deseosas de poner en conocimiento del Consejo las actividades que realizan. Yo les propongo que en lugar de que lo hagan aquí, en la Plenaria, manden quizás una copia de sus declaraciones con la descripción de sus actividades a la Secretaría, de manera que ésta, amablemente, las reproduzca y las ponga a disposición de los Estados Miembros interesados. Esto nos ahorraría un buen tiempo en nuestros debates.

Asimismo, distinguidos delegados, y en este tercer punto, en lo que se refiere a sus propias declaraciones en torno a la aprobación de los informes de los comités de problemas de productos básicos, agricultura, pesca y montes, aquellas delegaciones que endosan el informe de esos comités y que tienen observaciones adicionales, podrían enviarlas por escrito a la Secretaría para que se incluyan en nuestro verbatim.

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

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)**

EL PRESIDENTE: El último punto es el anuncio de que, según me informan los distinguidos miembros del Comité de Redacción, han propuesto ya un presidente para dicho Comité, y me refiero a la distinguida delegada de Argentina, la Señora I. di Giovan Battista. Ustedes recordarán también, respecto de los trabajos del Comité de Redacción, que era intención de los Estados Miembros de este Consejo que el informe fuera más de carácter ejecutivo y que se concentrara en las recomendaciones, puntos pendientes y decisiones principales del Consejo. Dejo, por tanto, la tarea de hacer ese ejercicio de ejecutividad al Comité de Redacción y a su Presidenta de guiarlo así.

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)**ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)****ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)****10. Report of the Sixtieth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (continued)****10. Rapport de la soixantième session du Comité des produits (suite)****10. Informe del 60° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (continuación)**

EL PRESIDENTE: Permítanme ahora, distinguidos delegados, pasar al punto que dejamos suspendido el día de ayer, me refiero al 10. Teníamos una lista de oradores todavía pendiente; esta lista de oradores no la he cerrado, pero les repito que si alguna otra delegación desea hacer intervención, puede abreviarla en la Plenaria y enviar el texto total a la Secretaría para que se incluya en el verbatim.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I should like to thank you for giving me the floor although I had not intended to intervene on this agenda item. I have not prepared a written statement either, because I thought that the Council was going to adopt the Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems as submitted to us, particularly as most of us took part in the deliberations of that CCP along with the Secretariat and in the Drafting Committee which was chaired by our colleague Rosanne Kava.

Now, for the Report to be balanced and well drafted, we all know that a balanced Report means that the Report does not give full satisfaction to any of us. However, after the intervention of some delegates who have put their views concerning certain items of the Report, which had not been fully reflected in the document, I am obliged to put the views of my country and the point of view of a large number of net food importing countries, particularly from the least developed countries especially in the Near East and Africa, a group of which my country is a member. Such points which have not been fully covered in the Report, namely the negative effects which are foreseen in applying the Agreement on Agriculture deriving from the Uruguay Round, also the difficulties which these countries are going to have to face in a very short time in financing their basic food imports. Also, the role of the International Community and countries which receive the most benefit from these agreements that they should help Third World countries in order to solve these difficulties.

Amongst the priorities also which are required of FAO and which we have also identified in other FAO Committees, emphasis should be put on the fact that FAO, in cooperation with other international organizations, should take part in the activities of the World Trade Organization on the follow-up of the Marrakesh decision. The net food importing countries should be identified, that is to say those that can benefit from help which may be required in order to help offset the negative effects of that Agreement. I hope that the Council's Report will include these views clearly. Views which are not only Egypt's but of other countries, other net food importing countries and also least developed countries, countries which, if the Council allows them, can make their own intervention on that matter. If the other views expressed by other countries will be covered in the Report as well, but if the Council decides not to include the interventions of the various groups, then we are ready to accept the Report as presented to us. Thank you.

R. DE SANTIS (Observateur de la Communauté européenne): Monsieur le Président, je dois vous féliciter pour votre conduite des travaux du Conseil et je dois dire que nous sommes en ligne avec l'idée d'efficacité que vous avez rappelée, hier matin. Nous regrettons beaucoup que l'on n'ait pas suivi votre proposition de se limiter à une version du rapport et de réfléchir sur l'opportunité de revoir les procédures des organes de la FAO afin d'éviter la répétition en Comité de ce qui est déjà discuté dans les différents groupes.

L'Union européenne et ses 15 Etats Membres ont pris connaissance avec intérêt du rapport sur la soixantième session du Comité des produits. Le résultat de l'analyse de la situation et des perspectives mondiales des produits nous a montré que les éléments les plus caractéristiques étaient la hausse des cours internationaux de plusieurs produits de base et la relance des gains à l'exportation qui en est résultée pour un certain nombre de

pays en développement. Il en résulte que le principal facteur de cette relance de la demande de nombreux produits agricoles a été la croissance de l'activité économique mondiale. Il nous faudra suivre de près cette évolution pour tendre à assurer une amélioration continue du commerce des produits agricoles.

Permettez-moi encore une fois, Monsieur le Président, de réaffirmer que, de l'avis de l'Union européenne et de ses Etats Membres, l'Uruguay Round représente un tournant du commerce international et constitue une occasion non négligeable pour tous les pays. Certains de ces pays seront sans doute amenés à diversifier leur production et à améliorer leur structure de commercialisation. Toutefois, nous croyons que c'est dans ce cadre qu'ils développeront leur potentialité d'exportation et bénéficieront ainsi de la libéralisation du commerce international. C'est au sein de l'OMC qu'il faudra suivre l'application de l'accord sur l'agriculture.

L'Union européenne et ses Etats Membres partagent l'approche reprise par les conclusions du présent rapport concernant le point "Commerce, environnement et développement agricole". Toutefois, il nous faut dès à présent tenter de mener à bien, de manière plus concrète et rigoureuse, la mise en oeuvre d'une politique visant à intégrer la question du respect de l'environnement dans l'approche commerciale internationale. Nous souhaitons ici réaffirmer notre attachement à considérer la protection de l'environnement comme une priorité majeure.

En ce qui concerne l'activité des groupes intergouvernementaux sur les produits, nous estimons qu'elle a été fondamentalement positive, non seulement aux rôles joués en matière d'échanges, mais surtout quant aux réponses aux exigences de l'environnement et du développement durable. Néanmoins, quant au fonctionnement des groupes, nous réaffirmons notre souci de voir réaliser des économies, que ce soit dans la présentation des documents, qui devraient être concis, ou dans le déroulement des travaux, qui devraient être réduits à l'essentiel. Nous appuyons le programme de travail proposé par le Secrétariat qui se résume en la poursuite des activités entreprises par les divers groupes intergouvernementaux afin d'assurer une meilleure répartition de la productivité agricole sur le plan mondial, dans un esprit de coopération internationale et d'ouverture des marchés. Nous tenons à la stricte application des décisions prises par le Comité des produits en ce qui concerne le calendrier et l'organisation des groupes intergouvernementaux, conformément au paragraphe 21 du rapport.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, I would first of all like to congratulate the Committee on Commodity Problems on the success of its Sixtieth Session. We thank the Secretariat very much for the excellent preparation and presentation of the comprehensive document before us, CL 108/6.

Please allow me to make a few observations on the Report. First, in 1994 there was an increase of 20 percent in the price of agricultural, fishery and forestry export commodities in the developing countries as a whole, while in the developed countries there was an increase of 2 percent. However, several developing countries, particularly in Africa, have not necessarily gained very much from this development. It was further noted with concern that the actual income received by developing countries was still well below the level at the beginning of the 1980s. In this context, my delegation asks FAO to monitor and periodically analyse the progress of the international market in agricultural, fishery and forestry export commodities in the future and to report to the Committee's next Session so as to benefit the developing countries by increasing their earnings and improving their external debt conditions.

Second, Mr Chairman, my delegation fully supports the Committee's initiative in stressing the need to improve its links with its subsidiary bodies and strengthening its guidance to the Work Programmes of the IGGs in order to get the full benefit from them, especially in market development and the prospects facing the commodities concerned, as well as activities in other international fora. Dealing with the interests of the developing countries, who are producing and exporting a limited number of agricultural, fishery or forestry products because of the constraints which exist in these countries is very important. We also support the decision taken by the Committee to improve the functioning of the IGGs by arranging back-to-back meetings.

Third, the Indonesian Delegation fully agrees with the Committee's recognition that developing countries will be facing considerable changes in world market conditions while at the same time confronting a new and complex policy agenda. They will require assistance in order to capture the potential benefits of new market opportunities and to cope with the new problems and exigencies. Technical assistance in policy formulation

and sanitary and phytosanitary measures will need to be stepped up. The particular needs of the least developed countries will need to be given priority consideration. In this connection my delegation is in agreement with the Committee that the developing countries should examine in depth the areas outlined in paragraph 33 of the Report when formulating their national policies.

Fourth, the Indonesian Delegation can go along with other members of the Council in supporting and accepting the possibility of the inclusion of tropical fruit in the International Group on Bananas and further hopes that a sub-group on tropical fruit can be established. We also fully support the intention of Malaysia to convene an international consultation meeting on tropical fruit in early 1996 with technical input from FAO.

Last but not least, Mr Chairman, the Indonesian Delegation would like to join other speakers in adopting the report of the Sixtieth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and requests the Council to adopt it unanimously.

Francis J. VACCA (United States of America): The United States supports the conclusion of the Sixtieth Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. In our view it was an extremely productive meeting. In particular, we support paragraph 21 of the Report, which will both substantially streamline future IGG meetings and enhance their efficiency and relevance. We believe that when these changes are implemented, future IGGs will be recognized as more important policy discussion bodies than they currently are. As the Assistant Director-General, Mr de Haen, has already said, the cutting back of the length of these meetings and convening them biennially should reduce the number of meeting days per biennium by at least 20. Moreover, the Secretariat will require less time and expense preparing for these meetings and members will experience commensurate reductions.

A number of CCP members representing several geographical regions noted that tropical fruits were not being dealt with in the current IGG configuration. We support the proposal to discuss tropical fruit during the next IGG on bananas, recognizing the possibility of regularly integrating tropical fruits with bananas or possibly citrus, depending on the recommendations of the next CCP. We do not believe that this Council should make any recommendations about the handling of tropical fruit within the IGGs until the CCP further discusses the issue and until the Director-General has reported on the administrative and financial implications of any proposals, as noted in paragraph 23.

The United States values the work of FAO's sub-Committee on surplus disposal and agrees that its importance may well increase in response to the needs of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. We also agree with the CCP's recommendation that the Sub-Committee review the principles of surplus disposal and suggest how it can more effectively interact with the WTO Committee on Agriculture.

FAO's initial analysis of the implications of the Uruguay Round on Agriculture prompted a variety of responses from CCP members. Some were critical of FAO for painting too bleak a picture for developing country regions, especially Africa, in the short run, but the United States found FAO's study to be extremely valuable, reasonably well-balanced and quantitatively sound. We hope that FAO will continue to monitor and analyse the implementation of the Agreement, especially its likely impact on developing countries. We also hope that future analysis will address the longer-term positive benefits of the Uruguay Round to developing country regions.

Fernando RAS (Argentina): Argentina se complace en otorgar su aprobación al informe presentado por el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos. Se trata de una evaluación equilibrada tanto de los múltiples problemas que enfrentan los mercados agrícolas internacionales, como de los aportes que está realizando la FAO en esta área.

Quisiera, sin embargo, aprovechar la oportunidad que se me brinda para hacer hincapié sobre algunos aspectos del documento que a juicio de la delegación argentina merecen mayor énfasis.

En tal sentido, debe destacarse el importante progreso logrado por el Acuerdo Agrícola de la Ronda Uruguay. No nos cabe duda que con la implementación progresiva de los consensos logrados, se irán acentuando las tendencias descritas en el párrafo 7 y que muchos países en desarrollo se verán beneficiados con la tonificación de los mercados agrícolas internacionales.

Las políticas de subvenciones a la producción agrícola, agravadas por las distorsiones que introducen en el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas, son una de las causas más relevantes de la difícil situación que hoy enfrentan muchos países en desarrollo importadores de alimentos.

El Acuerdo Agrícola alcanzado en la Ronda Uruguay ha sido concebido como una primera etapa en el proceso de liberalización del comercio agrícola. Le cabe a la FAO una tarea complementaria a la realizada en la OMC para asegurar el cabal cumplimiento del mismo que es fundamental para asegurar que los beneficios de la reforma agrícola internacional y de la liberalización del comercio de bienes, servicios y flujos de inversión lleguen a todo sus miembros en general y, particularmente, a los menos desarrollados y a los más dependientes en la importación de alimentos.

Tenemos confianza en que la mejor remuneración de la producción agrícola puede contribuir sustancialmente a que muchos países alcancen más elevados niveles de desarrollo económico y mayor independencia de las restricciones y angustias que impone la inseguridad alimentaria.

Nos complacen también, señor Presidente, las decisiones adoptadas por el Comité en lo referente al fortalecimiento de la tarea de los grupos intergubernamentales. Esto se refiere tanto a la elaboración de documentos más analíticos y concretos como al establecimiento de objetivos más nítidamente focalizados.

Señor Presidente, no se puede dejar de mencionar como un importante acierto la creciente relevancia que este Comité está otorgando a las conexiones existente entre el comercio, el medio ambiente y el desarrollo agrícola sostenible. Para mejorar la sostenibilidad ambiental de la agricultura resulta indispensable contar con un sistema comercial más libre que reforzará la complementariedad entre el comercio y el medio ambiente.

Ahora que se han dado los primeros pasos en esta dirección le caben a la FAO dos importantes labores. Por un lado se encuentran las tareas de aplicación y seguimiento dispuestas por la Resolución 2/79 de la Conferencia en lo referido al seguimiento de las tendencias del proteccionismo en general, y más específicamente en sus manifestaciones más novedosas como pueden ser algunas formas que va adoptando el proteccionismo ecológico.

Por otro, cabe a la FAO contribuir a que sus miembros logren acceso a los medios técnicos que les permitan evaluar las consecuencias ambientales de los procesos de producción agrícola vigente y, eventualmente, cooperar en la propuesta de métodos de producción alternativos más inocuos con el medio ambiente.

Por último señor Presidente, se desea destacar la importancia que reviste la tarea de examen de las actividades del Subcomité Consultivo de Colocación de Excedentes, particularmente en lo referido a la revisión del catálogo de transacciones y análisis de aquéllas de la zona gris.

Salah HAMDÍ (Tunisie): En réalité je n'avais pas du tout l'intention d'intervenir dans ce débat sur le rapport du Comité des produits, d'autant plus que j'avais eu le privilège et la charge d'assurer la présidence de ce Comité. Je suis donc le principal témoin de l'ambiance dans laquelle ce projet a été adopté. Il a été adopté par acclamation à l'unanimité, moyennant de petites modifications proposées par certaines délégations. C'est un rapport jugé à l'époque excellent, qui tenait compte de tous les points de vue exprimés par tous les membres du Comité.

Toutefois, et devant l'ouverture d'un débat et les interventions de certaines délégations, je voudrais apporter très brièvement ma contribution, et naturellement je voudrais apporter mon appui au rapport tel qu'il est présenté. C'est un rapport qui peut être adopté sans problème par le Conseil, et qui peut être appuyé par certaines recommandations du Conseil.

Dans cette intervention très brève, je voudrais insister en particulier sur les questions soulevées par le délégué de l'Égypte. Certaines interventions montrent une certaine réticence à propos de quelques questions, en particulier la question du suivi des accords d'Uruguay entre la FAO et l'OMC.

Nous reconnaissons volontiers que l'OMC est le principal organisme qui assure le suivi des accords d'Uruguay, mais au cours des débats du Comité des produits il a été convenu que la FAO avait un grand rôle à jouer, en collaboration avec les autres institutions, dont l'OMC, pour assurer le suivi agricole des accords d'Uruguay et fournir une aide essentiellement technique permettant aux États Membres d'assurer l'application la plus efficace possible des accords d'Uruguay.

Je voudrais insister particulièrement sur les paragraphes 27 à 34 du rapport, notamment sur les paragraphes 32 et 34 qui insistent sur le rôle de la FAO en matière d'aide technique aux pays en développement pour mettre en œuvre les accords d'Uruguay, gérer au mieux ces accords, maîtriser leur incidence sur leurs économies, particulièrement leur incidence sur les balances commerciales des paiements dans la mesure où de nombreux pays connaissent des difficultés, notamment au Proche-Orient et en Afrique, surtout les pays importateurs nets car on a constaté qu'à priori la facture d'importation des produits de base par ces pays va augmenter en raison d'une augmentation éventuelle des prix sur le marché international. Ce faisant, la FAO collaborera avec les autres institutions, en particulier avec l'OMC et le Comité de l'agriculture de l'OMC.

J'insiste tout particulièrement sur les mesures d'assistance que la FAO prendra en faveur des pays importateurs nets, en raison de la décision ministérielle de Marrakech y compris de déclenchement des mesures d'aide financière pour compenser l'augmentation des factures d'importation.

Tout cela a été examiné par le Comité et je crois que le Conseil pourrait apporter son soutien à ces délibérations par une adoption à l'unanimité du rapport du Comité.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand): My delegation is very pleased with the Report which is well written, precise and to the point. We endorse the Report without difficulty at all and therefore I shall be very brief. My delegation wishes to echo the intervention of the Malaysian delegate on the tropical fruits. We fully share their view in requesting FAO to form an independent governmental group on tropical fruit if resources permit.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Je suis désolé d'intervenir aussi tard mais j'aurai juste deux mots à dire.

Je voudrais appuyer l'intervention de la délégation de la Malaisie concernant les fruits tropicaux. Nous sommes déjà intervenus sur ce point lors de la session du Comité et nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire de ne pas perdre de vue qu'à terme il faudrait envisager la création d'un groupe intergouvernemental. Nous comprenons la position intermédiaire du Comité et nous pensons qu'à l'issue de la consultation qui sera tenue à Kuala Lumpur on pourra prendre une décision sur ce point.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún otro miembro del Consejo u observador que desee hacer uso de la palabra, me voy a permitir pedirle al doctor De Haen que haga algunas declaraciones finales si las tiene.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I can be extremely brief on behalf of my colleagues and staff of the Secretariat. I only want to thank the Council for the expressions of appreciation, for their guidance and encouragement of our work. We will do our best to execute your instructions to the best of our ability.

EL PRESIDENTE: Para resumir el debate me permito decir que el Consejo endosó el Informe del 60° período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos y elogió su trabajo que era una guía útil para la Organización. Encomió también a la Secretaría por la labor realizada y le instó a que continuara activamente en este sentido.

El Consejo tomó nota del debate sostenido en el Comité y lo reprodujo en parte al discutir este tema.

Tomó nota, en particular, de que los precios internacionales de productos básicos que exportan a países en desarrollo se habían recuperado, aunque lamentaba que varios países, principalmente de bajos ingresos, en África no tuvieran un beneficio apreciable de estos aumentos. Se lamentó que los precios reales se encontraran a un bajo nivel a principio de los años ochenta. Varias delegaciones notaron que prevalecían subsidios a la exportación de productos agrícolas y apoyo amplio a agricultores en países industrializados. Se acogió el análisis del Comité sobre el impacto de la Ronda Uruguay sobre varios aspectos que requerían atención por parte de la FAO y, sobre todo, en asistir a países en desarrollo. Al respecto se consideró que era necesario examinar de nuevo las políticas nacionales, conforme al párrafo 33, y se coincidió con la decisión de que los grupos intergubernamentales de productos básicos mejoraran su eficiencia y funcionamiento, recortaran su número y se orientaran a un análisis de formulación de políticas más efectivo.

Se acordó con el programa del Comité continuar trabajando en la vinculación del comercio, medio ambiente y desarrollo agrícola.

El Consejo tomó nota de otras recomendaciones relativas al trabajo de los grupos intergubernamentales en particular la inclusión de temas específicos como el de frutos tropicales y asegurar un foro intergubernamental para su tratamiento, conforme al párrafo 23.

Finalmente se acordó también que el Subcomité Consultivo de Colocación de Excedentes revise los principios sobre la colocación de excedentes siguiendo su incorporación en el Acuerdo sobre la agricultura de la Ronda Uruguay y en cooperación con la OMC.

Otras formulaciones se hicieron, no las he recogido aquí todas. Creo que mi resumen debe ser breve, ya que éstas están incluidas en el verbatim.

La delegación de Egipto desea intervenir.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt): There is just one point, Mr Chairman, which you have missed in your summary which is the net food imported countries besides the least developed ones and so I would like to highlight that. The net food imported countries will also be affected and so that should be mentioned.

EL PRESIDENTE: A mi me parece que lo había mencionado, es decir que el Comité acogió el análisis sobre el impacto de la Ronda Uruguay y sobre todo en lo que se refería a los países importadores de alimentos. Pero, en todo caso, se ha tomado nota de su punto; ha sido ya recogido en otras ocasiones al discutir los temas 5 y 4.

Distinguidos delegados si no hay otras observaciones, me permito dar por concluido el Tema 10 de nuestra agenda y pasar a la aprobación del Informe del Comité de Agricultura en su 13° período de sesiones.

6. Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture

6. Rapport de la treizième session du Comité de l'agriculture

6. Informe del 13° período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura

Distinguidos delegados para presentar el Tema 6, Informe del 13° período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, le voy a pedir al señor Sawadogo que nos ofrezca sus comentarios.

A. SAWADOGO (Sous-Directeur général, Département de l'agriculture): La treizième session du COAG s'est déroulée en une seule semaine, la dernière du mois de mars 1995, en application des nouvelles dispositions relatives à ce genre de réunion. L'expérience a été positive malgré un ordre du jour très chargé.

Notre introduction ne concernera pas les recommandations du COAG sur le rapport d'évaluation du programme 1994-95, et le Programme de travail et budget 1996-97 qui font l'objet des points 15 et 16. Pas plus que je ne parlerai des résultats de la troisième session du Sous-Comité sur le développement durable que d'autres collègues vous exposeront.

Le rapport de la treizième session du Comité de l'agriculture qui est soumis à votre attention pour décision traite en particulier des ressources zoogénétiques, de la révision des normes pour l'harmonisation de la quarantaine végétale, de la procédure d'adoption de ces normes, de l'application du Code international pour la distribution des pesticides et notamment de la procédure dite de consentement préalable. Il sera enfin question de l'étude analytique demandée par le COAG pour le Conseil sur le bien-fondé du transfert du COAG au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire de tout ce qui concerne les questions nutritionnelles.

En principe, notre objectif est d'indiquer aux membres du Conseil les développements nouveaux intervenus depuis la treizième session du Conseil. Pour ce faire, il nous faudra néanmoins les mettre en perspective.

S'agissant des ressources zoogénétiques, le COAG a débattu de deux problèmes. D'abord celui de la stratégie globale et régionale en la matière. Tout en reconnaissant que la FAO est l'organisation la mieux placée pour développer une telle stratégie et pour apporter aux Etats Membres, notamment ceux en développement ou en transition, le soutien dont ils ont besoin pour agir au niveau national, le COAG a recommandé que la stratégie de la FAO soit structurée de telle sorte qu'elle puisse être menée à bonne fin à partir des seules ressources du programme régulier. Compte tenu des perspectives budgétaires actuelles, autant dire que la stratégie en question resterait à un niveau embryonnaire à moins que la Conférence des donateurs que le COAG a également demandé au Secrétariat de réunir n'autorise des espoirs, s'agissant d'apports complémentaires. Nous serions très reconnaissants au Conseil de bien vouloir nous indiquer par les voies qui lui paraîtraient les meilleures, s'il y a lieu de nourrir de tels espoirs et donc de tenir une telle conférence.

Le second problème en matière de ressources zoogénétiques concerne l'élargissement des attributions de la Commission sur les ressources phytogénétiques à l'ensemble des organismes concourant à la production agricole et à l'alimentation, en commençant par les ressources zoogénétiques. Le COAG encourage le Conseil à adopter une résolution recommandant un tel élargissement à la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence et que cet élargissement se fasse par étapes en prenant soin de n'entraver ni les travaux de la Commission sur les ressources phytogénétiques, ni les préparatifs en vue de la tenue en juin 1996 de la quatrième Conférence technique sur les ressources phytogénétiques. Le COAG propose enfin que l'élargissement de la Commission s'accompagne de la création de commissions techniques à répartition géographique équilibrée, spécialisées par catégories de ressources (phytogénétiques, zoogénétiques, forestières et des pêches).

Ces commissions doivent-elles être composées d'experts représentant leurs gouvernements ou doivent-ils être choisis en vertu de leurs capacités professionnelles? La réponse à cette question comporte des implications notamment financières. Les directives du Conseil sont sollicitées sur ce point.

S'agissant d'harmonisation de la quarantaine végétale le COAG a imaginé des procédures possédant la vertu d'allier la sauvegarde de la rigueur de la démarche à la volonté d'aboutir, rapidement, à l'élaboration d'un cadre juridique cohérent, rendu indispensable par le succès des négociations d'Uruguay.

Ainsi le COAG a-t-il approuvé, en principe, deux normes, celle relative aux directives pour l'analyse des risques phytosanitaires et le Code international de conduite pour l'importation et le lâcher des agents exotiques de lutte biologique et instruit le Secrétariat de les soumettre directement au Conseil si le Comité des experts sur les mesures phytosanitaires parvenait à un accord consensuel quant aux modifications proposées par certains des membres du COAG. Le CEMP s'est réuni et a abouti à un consensus sur ces modifications (les amendements en question sont inclus dans le document CL 108/9-Sup.2 qui vous a été distribué).

S'agissant de la norme sur les exigences en matière d'établissement de zones exemptes d'organismes nuisibles, elle n'a pas été présentée au COAG faute de consensus au niveau des experts; ce consensus a été réalisé par la suite après la réunion du COAG. Le Comité avait néanmoins décidé de recommander que, si un tel consensus avait été réalisé, le Secrétariat aille de l'avant et présente également cette norme au Conseil alors que la procédure normale aurait voulu que l'on retourne devant le quatorzième COAG au printemps de 1997, avant d'en saisir le Conseil puis la Conférence. Cette proposition est donc elle aussi soumise à votre décision.

Allant plus loin dans l'examen des procédures, le COAG a recommandé, pour des raisons exposées au paragraphe 54 du document CL 108/9, que le Conseil recommande et que la Conférence décide de la suppression de l'étape 9 (acceptation officielle par les gouvernements).

Enfin, s'agissant du Code de conduite pour la distribution des pesticides et plus spécialement de l'initiative visant à élaborer un instrument juridiquement contraignant sur l'information et le consentement préalables, il vous souvient sans doute que la Conférence sur la sécurité chimique tenue à Stockholm, en Suède, en avril 1994 et la Commission du développement durable, lors de ses travaux à New York en mai 1994 et en avril 1995, ont encouragé le PNUE et la FAO à poursuivre leur collaboration en la matière, en étroite coopération avec d'autres organisations internationales. Le COAG s'est prononcé dans le même sens.

Il nous paraît donc important de rendre compte de la décision prise par le Conseil d'administration du PNUE, au cours de sa dix-huitième session à Nairobi, au Kenya, du 15 au 26 mai 1995; ce Conseil d'administration a en effet adopté une résolution de politique générale invitant le PNUE, en concertation avec la FAO, à réunir un comité intergouvernemental de négociations "dès que possible mais pas plus tard qu'en janvier 1996", et à "convoquer une conférence diplomatique ayant pour objet l'adoption et la signature de l'instrument international juridiquement contraignant propre à assurer l'application de la procédure de consentement préalable en connaissance de cause dans le cas de certaines substances chimiques dangereuses (y compris les pesticides) qui font l'objet du commerce international, de préférence au début de 1997".

Enfin, sous la rubrique "Divers", le COAG a donné son accord de principe au transfert à la Commission sur la sécurité alimentaire de toute discussion relative aux problèmes de nutrition, sous réserve que soit présenté au Conseil un document analysant les implications d'un tel transfert. Cette étude fait l'objet du document CL 108/9 Sup.1 qui vous sera présenté par mon collègue du Département économique et social. Ce document n'appelle aucune remarque particulière de la part du Département de l'agriculture, mis à part quelques corrections éditoriales que nous allons suggérer d'apporter à la version finale.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Sawadogo por esta amplia y clara exposición del informe del COAG. Ustedes notarán, distinguidos delegados que los temas de que trata este Informe son particularmente complejos y diversos. Hay algunos de ellos, que les recuerdo, que en verdad corresponden a los temas 15 y 16 de nuestra agenda; los párrafos que tienen un contenido de carácter presupuestario, me refiero del 6 al 31, éstos habíamos convenido se tocaran bajo el Tema 16, conforme lo podrán encontrar en el documento LIM/3.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, con las observaciones introductorias del señor Sawadogo y con éstas últimas mías, les suplico que tomen en cuenta que el propósito principal de nuestro debate, ahora, no está en repetir el informe del COAG, sino en endosarlo.

Mme María de Lourdes MARTINS DUARTE (Cap-Vert): Je remercie tout d'abord le Directeur du Département de l'agriculture pour la présentation de ce point de l'ordre du jour et de toutes les questions restant en suspens qui font l'objet du document supplémentaire 1. Le rapport du COAG, document CL 108/9 étant déjà approuvé par ma délégation, en tant que membre de ce comité, permettez-nous toutefois de donner notre avis sur les questions qui demandent une décision du Conseil. S'agissant notamment du paragraphe 39 nous sommes favorables à l'élargissement du mandat de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques à d'autres organismes présentant un intérêt pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Nous tenons à féliciter le Comité d'experts sur les ressources phytosanitaires pour la profondeur de l'examen des normes pour l'harmonisation de la quarantaine végétale et la pertinence des recommandations qui nous sont présentées dans le document 108/9-Sup. 2. Nous approuvons ces deux normes et les recommandons à l'adoption de la Conférence.

Pour ce qui est du paragraphe 70, nous remercions le Secrétariat pour l'analyse présentée dans le supplément 1 qui nous permet de donner notre avis favorable pour le transfert au Comité de sécurité alimentaire à titre expérimental du point permanent de l'ordre du jour du COAG consacré à la nutrition. Nous sauvegardons néanmoins la souveraineté du Conseil et de la Conférence pour confier périodiquement certaines questions nutritionnelles à tout autre organe.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): Australia was pleased to be able to take an active part in the discussions at the session of COAG. In the case of the Programme Implementation Report and the short- medium- and long-term priorities listed there, we believe that, in general, the matters listed for attention by this Council in the Report are constructive ones. We are pleased to see that a number of them reflect the views that we expressed at COAG.

Our views were expressed at COAG but I would like to stress a number of the ones that are listed in the front of the document on page iii. These include closer cooperation with other UN Organizations and other international bodies, regional and national organizations, NGOs and the private sector. We believe cooperation to be an extremely important function of this Organization which can only lead to benefits. We support the accelerated follow-up to UNCED; better feedback of evaluation findings; priority ranking that has been given to nutrition; IPM continuing to receive high priority in 1996-97; the inclusion of Foot-and-Mouth disease in the EMPRES System as soon as possible and that this should be addressed in the Asian Pacific Region; research development to be given priority; strengthening the development of food quality and safety standards by Codex Alimentarius and Phytosanitary Standards under the IPPC; and, in order to improve agricultural trade, the provision of assistance and policy advice to member countries so that they may adapt to the changes arising from the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture.

My delegation supports the COAG assessment of the importance of implementing the Global Strategy for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources. However, we also acknowledge the COAG observation that the strategy is ambitious and calls for considerable resources, including extra-budgetary resources. We consider, however, that priority should continue to be given within the existing budget to the work on plant genetic resources at this stage. We would urge active and practical collaboration with other interested agencies that might be willing to share technical expertise and take on appropriate tasks, in particular the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological advice to the Convention on Biodiversity.

With respect to matching resources to the rate of implementation of the Strategy, more work will need to be done on developing a detailed, prioritized, costed action plan, presumably by the proposed Animal Genetic Resources Working Group of the proposed broadened Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Australia supports the broadening of the mandate of the Commission and the recommendation that this begin with animal genetic resources. We also have no difficulty with the interim arrangements suggested in paragraphs 40 and 41 of the Council Agenda paper.

Australia is strongly of the view that the sectoral working groups should be composed of government representatives because we see the groups being asked by the Commission to do work on issues of policy. Quite clearly, in doing their work the groups should, however, be given the flexibility to call on technical experts. They should also be directed to collaborate with other groups working on complementary issues (e.g. the Convention on Biodiversity).

Concerning UNCED follow-up, we agree with the COAG recommendation in paragraph 42 that adequate resources be allocated in the 1996/97 Programme of Work and Budget. This would not necessarily mean additional resources but rather a better management and focus of existing programmes to deliver on UNCED outcomes.

In the area of plant quarantine harmonization, FAO is to be congratulated on the standards development programme initiated and driven by it. It is essential that the IPPC Secretariat be given the resources necessary to continue this work and to undertake the necessary communication with Convention signatories. It is in the interests of all Member Governments to see this programme continue.

I would like to address the recommendation at paragraph 55. The Committee recommended that the matter of the amendment of the International Plant Protection Convention be discussed at the next FAO Conference with the aim of bringing the Convention into line with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the Uruguay Round and recent developments in establishing standard setting machinery under the IPPC.

My delegation sees the amendment of the International Plant Protection Convention as an essential element of the setting of harmonized International Plant Quarantine Standards and one that will see very significant

benefits flow to all FAO member countries. These benefits will be from greater protection of agricultural production against the introduction of exotic pests and diseases, as well as providing for increased opportunities to export agricultural products. International Plant Quarantine Standards will be of limited value in providing quarantine protection and facilitating trade if the Convention on which international cooperation on these matters depends is deficient. As it now stands, the text of the Convention and its annexes do not reflect the recent outcomes of the GATT/WTO Uruguay Round, nor does it support the standards in place or under development.

Under Article XIII of the Convention, amendments involving important technical changes or imposing additional amendments on contracting parties require FAO to convene an advisory committee of specialists. It would appear that amendments necessary to bring the Convention up to date would involve such changes and obligations. My delegation believes that the time is now ripe to put the proposal to the FAO Conference, because to lose the opportunity for another two years is not in the best interests of the harmonization process that the Organization has initiated through the Convention Secretariat, or of international trade in agricultural products generally. The achievements of the Secretariat and Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures in the development of standards for plant quarantine have been exceptional but have, ironically, highlighted that the Convention needs to be updated. Australia believes that a complete review and revision of the Convention is not necessarily called for, but that it may be possible for clear terms of reference to be developed, perhaps in consultation with Regional Plant Protection Organizations, on which parts of the Convention need examination.

My delegation supports referral of the Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents to the 1995 FAO Conference for endorsement as an international standard. We also strongly support referral of the guidelines for pest risk analysis to the 1995 FAO Conference for endorsement as an international standard. The pest risk analysis process plays a key role in ensuring that plant quarantine standards are justified scientifically, transparent and open to challenge if not soundly based. This standard will have very significant benefits to all member countries who trade in, or aspire to trade in, agricultural products. We also support referral of the Requirements for the Establishment of a Pest Free Area to the 1995 FAO Conference for endorsement as an international standard.

In supporting this action, Australia notes the key role of the proposed standard in meeting the quarantine security requirements of importing countries in a way that does not involve the post-harvest treatment of commodities, thereby ensuring better quality and safer exports. These standards will assist all countries to better protect their agriculture from the introduction of exotic pests and diseases.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quiero simplemente hacer una pequeña observación en lo que se refiere a la aplicación de la CNUMAD en los preparativos para el tercer período de sesiones de la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible. Este tema de preferencia lo vamos a tocar bajo el Tema 12 de nuestra agenda. Si pueden ustedes posponer el tratamiento para después, se lo agradecería.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Thank you Mr Chairman I should like to express my support, give my views on this Report and congratulate Mr Sawadogo on the presentation which was very clear and which covered all the main points in the Report. We were also given explanations and clarifications on the way in which the Secretariat has handled some of the recommendations which are included in the Report.

I should like to reaffirm the great importance that we and other developing countries ascribe to the activities of FAO in agriculture. We greatly appreciate the technical assistance which is provided by FAO to all developing countries. Agriculture is a source of income for a large number of the nationals of developing countries and it is also the main source of food security.

I should now like briefly to refer to certain points which were mentioned in the Report and I would like to stress these particular points. We fully agree with what was stated in the Report concerning the great importance of animal genetic resources. We think that they have not yet been given the importance which is their due. These resources are therefore endangered now.

We would like to stress the importance of the Council's decision at the 103rd Session to establish a centre for domestic animal diversity in order to define FAO's role and to safeguard animal genetic resources. We are very much aware of the financial difficulties which the Organization has to cope with but we do hope, nevertheless, that this Resolution will be implemented during the present biennium. Otherwise it would be very difficult for us to implement it in the future.

We also support the Committee's recommendation for the expansion of the terms of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to include other categories of organisms. We think that this could be undertaken by technical groups which might be set up immediately after adoption of the Resolution by the Conference, and these bodies could report to the Committee on Agriculture in the future.

As to plant protection, we think that this is a very important issue, particularly the question of plant health and resistance and biodiversity. This is important as far as protecting the environment is concerned and also, of course, the increase in agricultural production.

As to transferring all matters concerning nutrition to the Food Security Committee, we think that this is very important at this time when the Food Security Committee is taking part in preparing the World Food Summit, and we think that this is a major step which will enable us to have a clear view of the situation and that the transfer of this matter back to COAG could be looked at again at a later stage.

Hiroshi AKIYAMA (Japan): On this agenda item my delegation is happy to endorse in principle the Report of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). However, as was discussed in the last COAG meeting, the two phytosanitary standards that were endorsed in principle were subject to review by the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) and discussions at this Council Session. Therefore, Mr Chairman, I would like to explain the operation of the proposed measures of the phytosanitary standards paragraph by paragraph taking the document CL 108/9, the Report of COAG.

Our first point is concerning paragraph 52 of the Report. Japan has a specific suggestion on Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis (PRA). As a premise of PRA, provisional phytosanitary measures as provided for in paragraph 7 of Article 5 in the SPS Agreement should be referred to in the guidelines. In other words, as regards the pests and commodities on which PRA cannot be conducted because of insufficiency of relevant scientific evidence or is not completed, a member concerned may adopt appropriate phytosanitary measures on the basis of available pertinent information.

Our suggestion is as follows: According to the PRA Guidelines, phytosanitary measures can be determined when a whole stage of the PRA is finished. That is, in case that PRA cannot be conducted by lack of information or the PRA has not been conducted yet, the situation on the application of such measures is vague. As it is very likely that such situations take place, it is necessary to address in the PRA Guidelines how to deal with them. It is natural that the appropriate provisional phytosanitary measures to these pests and commodities should be adopted based on the predictable risk as stated in the SPS Agreement, Article 5, paragraph 7.

Japan recognizes that the issue above is very important and strongly recommends that our suggested text be inserted into the final PRA Guidelines. It should be noted that the suggestion would allow developing countries which will make or are making efforts in implementing the PRA to apply provisional phytosanitary measures before the PRA process is completed, and allow the countries who have adopted the import permission system to justify the suspension of the import of commodities into their countries until they permit the import.

Mr Chairman, regarding this point on the PRA draft standards, we are happy to submit our concrete written proposal to the Secretariat later. Regarding the Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents, substantial changes have been made by the IPPC Secretariat to the draft after the consultation with the RPPOs and FAO Members. Therefore, it is too early to put forward the draft code to the Council for its approval before the RPPOs and FAO Members examined the revised draft.

Our second comment is on paragraph 53 of the Report regarding the Requirements for the Establishment of a Pest Free Area. The Japanese Government is not able to confirm the contents of the guidelines to be approved

by the Council, because it has not received the final draft from FAO through the formal channel. Because of the substantial importance of the guidelines, comparable to the Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis, Japan strongly recommends that the opinions or proposals submitted by member countries and the current draft guidelines, if different from the former proposal, should be circulated to each RPPO and member, and that the sufficient opportunity for consideration on the revised draft should be given.

Regarding the procedure to develop international standards, the procedures adopted by the Conference are binding as discussed in COAG. Japan joins some other members which expressed concerns in COAG against the procedure deviation, having a view that international standards on phytosanitary measures should be developed according to the normal procedure.

We have also some comments on paragraphs 55 and 56 of the Report. On paragraph 55, concerning the matter of the IPPC amendment procedures, detailed information should be available to the member countries throughout the discussion process to ensure transparency.

On paragraph 56, regarding the information exchange, the contents to be exchanged should be sufficiently reviewed to avoid duplication of the works by other organizations.

Hyun-Woo CHO (Korea, Republic of): First of all, my delegation would like to begin with heart-felt congratulations on your election as Chairman, since this is my first floor of the Council. My delegation also extends its appreciation to the Secretariat on the preparation of the concise and informative document CL 108/9.

In principle, my delegation endorses the Report of the 13th Session of COAG and, in addition, makes a few brief comments on two issues.

First, with regard to the Programme Implementation Report, my delegation is happy to commend FAO's effort for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), which is incorporated in the newly initiated TCDC Agreement on the Use of Experts.

The fact that 56 Member Nations have already signed that Agreement and FAO has received 1 600 offers of service shows the overall support of the international community.

My delegation considers TCDC activity to be cost-effective based on these three following reasons.

First, as the globalization of the world economy is expanding there has been a growing gap of economic development among developing countries, which leaves growing possibility of sharing experiences and transferring techniques among developing countries.

Second, human resources development, which was stressed by the Committee as a primary resource for ensuring sustainable food security, can be best achieved by TCDC programmes, because the exact demand of developing countries for their developing human resources can be met by other developing countries with lots of successful experience in this area.

Third, TCDC can be used as a tool to compensate for declining resources taking note of the above-mentioned factors. My government is actively participating in TCDC activities, specially by implementing lots of human resources training programmes of Korean International Cooperation Agencies. Also, my government is under way to take part in TCDC Agreements on the Use of Experts which is initiated by FAO.

In this context, my delegation would like to recommend that FAO foster TCDC activities on food and agriculture by following up the results of the 9th Session of TCDC High-level Committee, which was held from 30th May to 2nd June in New York. In addition to that, my delegation is of the view that FAO should pay special attention to the so-called triangular funding system as a means of financing TCDC activities.

With regard to FAO's assistance in adopting the changes arising from the Uruguay Round on Agriculture which is described in paragraph 19, FAO should take note of the multi-dimensional nature of agriculture arising from differences of economic development and make a different assistance policy utilized.

Kamaruzzaman ALIAS (Malaysia): Firstly, my delegation would like to commend the Secretariat for the precise manner it presents issues for decisions for endorsement. This may perhaps set the pace for in-depth discussion on the core issues rather than examining the more peripheral issues.

Touching on the subject of priorities for Major Programme in Agriculture for 1996-97, my delegation fully supports that poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition should rank high among FAO priorities.

On the subject of human development, my delegation would recommend the approach that would leave lasting impact on the participants and at the same time encourage national policy makers to expand human development programmes on a much wider scale. While previously the approach has been one of classroom teaching or field demonstration, it would be timely to consider other alternatives such as, *in situ* human development on a specific area or Village Based Human Development Project. This would allow participants to be involved right from the start in planning and implementing stages. The pride in the achievements of the participants in carrying out development in their village area acts as a catalyst for development in other areas. This approach has the further advantage of being able to accommodate environmental consideration and participation of women in development, as it is implemented on a limited area basis with the consensus of the inhabitants of that area.

Mr Chairman, with regard to Integrated Pest Management, the project has been successfully carried out in Malaysia since 1986. Its success lies in the building up of team spirit of the local communities participating in the project to solve local problems. My delegation endorses the continuation of this project in line with the recommendation of the Committee of Agriculture.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as regards the broadening of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to include other categories of organisms used for food and agriculture, my delegation has supported the idea in earlier fora. If need be, for procedural reasons, we shall repeat our endorsement on the same subject.

On the view of the standards for plant quarantine harmonization which shall eventually serve as the reference point for the WTO's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, my delegation adopts the same standard as that of the representatives from Asia-Pacific for the Committee of Experts for Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM). My delegation also endorses the Standards on Guidelines for Pest Risk Analysis and International Code of Conduct on the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents which have been approved by COAG.

On the third Standard, i.e. the Requirement for the Establishment of a Pest Free Area, which reached consensus at the recent CEPM at the second attempt, this needs special procedural endorsement along with the endorsement of the particular Standard. While Malaysia joins the consensus of the CEPM on the subject matter, the issue of procedures by exemption, i.e. without going to COAG in the first instance, before tabling at the Council, needs special attention. In view of the urgency of the matter, and that it would take two years, that is, until March 1997, to go back to COAG, this merits special consideration but, as with many exemptions, could lead to the creation of precedent. Thus, Malaysia's support for this subject to be considered by the Council and presented to Conference is qualified in that it should be the only such instance in FAO.

Malaysia joins in supporting the report of COAG.

José ROBLES AGUILAR (México): Mi delegación, señor Presidente, desea hacer algunos comentarios al documento bajo consideración.

Con relación al apartado 2 del Informe del 13° período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, observamos que en los documentos de trabajo del Comité no se incluyó un resumen del Programa principal de agricultura con datos provisionales sobre los recursos que se destinarían al mismo para el bienio siguiente. Creemos que esta información resulta de gran importancia para conocer la dimensión que se otorga a las actividades en esta esfera.

De igual manera, consideramos importante que se profundice en el análisis preliminar sobre los posibles efectos que tendrá la implementación de los Acuerdos de Agricultura de la Ronda Uruguay, en especial en los países menos desarrollados que son importadores netos de alimentos, así como llevar un seguimiento para evitar los desajustes derivados de la aplicación de los Convenios de Marrakesh.

En relación al apartado 5 del documento, donde se menciona la posibilidad de aprobar, a través de un procedimiento irregular, la norma "Requisitos para el establecimiento de zonas libres de plagas", advertimos con preocupación la pretensión por desvirtuar la intención inicial de esta norma. En este sentido, queremos resaltar la extensa experiencia de mi país en el establecimiento de áreas libres al haber utilizado por primera vez este tipo de medidas fitosanitarias. Consideramos que no deben aplicarse mecanismos de aprobación que no se ajusten al procedimiento normal cuando se trata de aprobar una norma de fuerte controversia.

En concreto, respecto del párrafo 54 en el que se recomienda la eliminación de la Fase 9 para la elaboración y aprobación de normas, mi país estima que ello debe ser reconsiderado particularmente a la luz de que esta decisión implicaría la exclusión de la participación de expertos fitosanitarios nacionales en las decisiones correspondientes. A este respecto, es relevante considerar que con anterioridad al establecimiento del secretariado de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria, las autoridades de los países podían participar en la elaboración de normas fitosanitarias a través de consultas técnicas con las organizaciones regionales de protección fitosanitaria. Sin embargo, de acuerdo al procedimiento de aprobación vigente, esta consulta podría tener una participación cada vez menor en la elaboración y aprobación de normas, por lo cual consideramos conveniente que se mantenga la Fase 9 de procedimiento.

Con relación a la propuesta para ampliar el mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogénéticos, incluida en el párrafo 39, queremos expresar el interés de mi país en que los grupos de trabajo sectoriales, que se prevén, estén integrados por representantes gubernamentales.

Respecto al párrafo 70, estimamos adecuado que el debate de las cuestiones relacionadas con la nutrición pase al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, particularmente a la luz de la propuesta para que éste se constituya en el Comité Preparatorio de la Cumbre Alimentaria.

Por otra parte deseamos referirnos al párrafo 27 del informe en relación a la propuesta para constituir un Comité de Ganadería. Estimamos que social y económicamente esta actividad reviste una particular relevancia para muchos países en desarrollo. Adicionalmente, la ganadería es una importante fuente de proteínas de buena calidad para las poblaciones de estos países. Debemos considerar de igual manera la contribución de esta actividad para la agricultura sostenible de las naciones. Creemos que es conveniente madurar esta propuesta y que la importancia que la Organización debe brindar a las actividades ganaderas se reflejen también en un futuro programa principal de la Organización dedicado a este sector.

Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland): First of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat and the Committee on Agriculture for making available to us the high-quality document presently under discussion. My comments, Mr Chairman, are not aimed at opening the debate on the issues that were ably deliberated on by the Committee but to point out issues that my delegation considers to be important to it and also to the Council.

May I first refer to paragraph 9 of document CL 108/9, where the Committee concluded that sustainable increases in food production and productivity are essential to food security. This conclusion is further confirmed in paragraph 24. My delegation considers this conclusion and observation to be very important and crucial to food-deficit, developing countries. In other words, food security should not mean unqualified reliance on food imports without exhausting all local and national capacities of production and productivity. Secondly, under the broad item of medium- and long-term priorities as contained in paragraphs 15-21 of the document under discussion, my delegation wishes to stress the element of human development, particularly with respect to agricultural extensions, management in agriculture, and agricultural policy development. As more local and donor resources become limited, very serious and pertinent questions are being asked about the effectiveness or otherwise of extension services, management practices and agricultural policy arrangements in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. My delegation therefore strongly believes that FAO should treat these as priority areas for assistance to member countries, particularly those in developing areas.

My delegation also takes note of paragraph 17 of the document, where member countries are urged to apply appropriate management practices on natural resources such as water and land. This appeal is particularly relevant to small countries such as Swaziland, which are increasingly confronted with challenges to the rational utilization of their limited resources in a situation where demand for these resources is escalating because of high population growth rates. In this regard, we would like to express our appreciation to FAO for supporting the recently completed project on land-use planning and rational utilization of land and water resources. The project succeeded in demarcating areas suitable for specific crops based on scientific analysis of soils and climatic resources.

With respect to paragraph 23 of the document, my delegation strongly feels that agricultural extension services in developing countries have tended to approach the problems of the small farmer from a very fragmented and myopic point of view. The suggestion contained in this paragraph to adopt a farming systems approach is therefore very much appreciated.

The concept of farm management and agricultural marketing should be part and parcel of an extension worker programme. Crop diversification, as reflected in paragraph 24, is indeed very appropriate particularly in those areas prone to drought and other natural calamities. My delegation further wishes to suggest that some developing countries be assisted to diversify back to their indigenous crops, which were more adaptable to marginal conditions than some of the recently introduced exotic crops.

Furthermore, Mr Chairman, we are in full agreement with paragraph 27 of the same document that the livestock sector provides an important contribution to the rural economies of a number of developing countries. Swaziland is no exception to this rule. In this regard, we would like to commend FAO for making available technical assistance through a TCP to carry out a review of the livestock sector during the year 1994. The information generated through this study has become essential in guiding our policies and programmes and in transforming the livestock industry through small-scale commercial enterprises in the rural areas.

Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to endorse in principle the Committee's recommendation to broaden the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to include other organisms of interest to food and agriculture. We concur with the Committee's view that a cautious approach should be adopted in broadening this mandate, particularly with respect to maintaining professional and technical competence and taking into account the financial implications.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to support the recommendation in paragraph 61 to review and update the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Some countries which have not yet finalized their pesticide legislation, like Swaziland, have found this Code to be very useful. I also wish to thank the FAO for assisting Swaziland in formulating draft legislation on the use and distribution of pesticides.

With these few comments, Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to endorse the Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

James W. SCHROEDER (United States of America): The United States endorses the report of the Thirteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. As noted in the matters requiring attention by the Council, COAG rendered a number of judgements but also left some important questions for the Council to answer. We will now give some of our comments on a few of the substantive issues and some we will defer to a later, more appropriate time, per the request of the Chairman. We believe, however, that the Council should applaud COAG for accomplishing its business in one week instead of the traditional two weeks.

We joined others at COAG who appreciate FAO's comprehensive global strategy on animal genetic resources but cautioned against excessive reliance on extra-budgetary resources. We strongly support the Secretary's well-conceived proposal to broaden FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in a deliberate, step-by-step manner, commencing with animal genetic resources. In our view, the formation of small sectorial technical expert working groups is the key to efficient, scientifically driven policy guidance for each sector under the broadened Commission. Utilization of Government experts would not be prohibited under this

proposal but it would probably not include Permanent Representatives, as is now the case with the working group on Plant Genetic Resources.

We want FAO's work in the technical areas to be guided by technically-competent advisers rather than political generalists whose expertise will be needed in the political forum of the expanded Commission.

The United States is pleased that standards are being developed for plant quarantine harmonization. We concur with all of the COAG recommendations and support the text amendments agreed to by the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures. We also support, as have other speakers here this morning, bringing these standards to the Conference for adoption.

Regarding FAO's follow-up to the ICN we believe it is important to maintain momentum and continually seek new ways of enhancing global nutrition. FAO's work in this area should include the completion of the follow-up meetings for all regions so that all Member Nations can report on the national plans of action and recent developments in nutrition.

We also want to reiterate the importance of the ACC Sub-Committee on nutrition in promoting cooperation on nutrition activities. Finally, we support the shift of the standing item on nutrition from COAG to CFS but this shift should in no way detract from discussing FAO's Nutrition Programme of Work during COAG.

Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil): First of all I would like to thank Mr Sawadogo for his introduction of the matter. I will be very brief, Mr Chairman, as my delegation has had the opportunity of intervening extensively during the 13th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

My comments will be limited to the question of broadening the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to include other categories of organisms used for food and agriculture.

My delegation has indicated in the Commission that we consider it really premature to discuss the broadening of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at a time when that body is very busy discussing complex and delicate questions. We were not able to break the consensus, however, in the understanding that the process of broadening the mandate will be a very cautious one and will adopt a step by step pace which will not disturb the current activities of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

On the shape of a future expanded Commission and its structure, my delegation feels that it may be practical to consider the creation of advisory sectional working groups which could assess the Commission in its tasks. We must emphasize, however, our opinion that the composition of such groups has not only budgetary and administrative implications but also very clearly political ones. We strongly support, as the delegations of Australia and Mexico did, an intergovernment composition of such groups. Only in such a way can we expect full and democratic classification of the countries represented here and who have clear vested interests in the matter and clear transparent proceeding and results in the discussion of the matters that have at this stage, beyond technical aspects, strong political implications that would affect countries even in the exercise of their sovereign rights.

Soetatwo HADIWIGENO (Indonesia): First allow me to congratulate the Committee and its Chairman on their excellent work. With regard to the idea of broadening the mandate of FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources which covers all agriculture sectors, which includes animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and genetic resources, the Indonesian Delegation would like to express its agreement in principle. We appreciate FAO's budgetary constraints and we would like to agree that the first State might deal with animal husbandry, genetic resources and then go further into other genetic resources based on the ability of FAO's budget in the future.

Concerning the Working Group of this Commission we would like to remain in the existing system but other than going into the idea of a Panel of Experts. It consists only of a very limited number of persons and as a consequence it will also limit the number of countries represented in the Commission.

Considering all these matters, we do hope that these items will not influence the FAO programmes and the undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources with Conventions on Biological Diversity of the Rio Summit and also not influence the plan dealing with the fourth Session of the International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources which will be held in Germany in June 1996.

Finally, Mr Chairman, with regard to the Report of the 13th Session of the Committee on Agriculture the Indonesian Delegation would like to associate itself with other members of the Council in adopting the Report.

Wilberforce A. SAKIRA (Uganda): Mr Chairman, Uganda was pleased to have been able to participate in the 13th Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We therefore endorse the Report presented. However, we would like to offer a few remarks in addition to the ones we made during the Session.

As you are aware, poverty is the main cause of food insecurity and access to food is a basic human right. Therefore, our delegation continues to endorse the view that poverty alleviation, food insecurity and nutrition should rank high among FAO's priorities in the medium and long-term perspective. Uganda supports the recommendation that when developing environmentally sound technologies, traditional systems and indigenous knowledge should be taken into account. Mr Chairman, we attach much importance to this recommendation because, as you know, sometimes there are other aspects like climate, pests, soils and productivity as regards extension workers or hired experts. Furthermore, we strongly support the recommendation that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) should continue to receive high priority.

Uganda welcomes the proposal of broadening the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to include other categories of organisms used for food and agriculture, starting with animal genetic resources. In our view this matter should be handled by government representatives.

Mr Chairman, we support the move to ensure the safe, efficient and environmentally sound management of pesticides. Paragraph 61 of the Report proposes a review of certain parts of the International Code of Conduct of the Distribution and Use of Pesticides to be completed by the end of the century. We think this is very important as well as timely and should be handled immediately.

We have taken note of the recommendation that FAO should give particular attention to the contribution of policies to employment generation and social integration and equity, especially with regard to women. We request that FAO take necessary action to intensify its efforts in assisting Member Nations in developing and implementing policies and plans of action for women and, where appropriate, for rural youth. The donor community is requested to consider providing adequate budgetary resources for the emancipation of the women folk.

Srta. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. En primer lugar queríamos agradecer a la Secretaría por la documentación que se nos ha facilitado y la presentación del informe sometido a nuestra consideración.

Con relación al documento CL 108/9-Sup. 1, relativo a la transferencia del examen de los asuntos de la nutrición del COAG al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, la República Argentina no tiene inconveniente en apoyar esta transferencia. Sin embargo, deseamos hacer algunas observaciones en la propuesta de la Secretaría contenida en el punto 4 del documento inciso b y c. Con relación al inciso b, destacamos la importancia del párrafo cuando expresa que la transferencia de los temas específicos de especial importancia relacionados con la nutrición, se someterían al examen del COAG cuando estuviera justificado o, también, al COFO y la COFI. En el caso del inciso c, estimamos que la transferencia de las competencias del tema de nutrición al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, debería comprender sólo la primera parte del párrafo de este inciso, y nos oponemos a que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria considere aspectos de la nutrición vinculados al comercio y las actividades pesqueras y forestales, las cuales deben tratarse en sus respectivos Comités de productos básicos, Comité de Pesca y Comité de Montes.

En cuanto a las modalidades de la implementación, apoyamos lo expresado en el párrafo 6 relativo a que se autorizara la transferencia de este tema con carácter experimental y sólo en caso de que la experiencia

resultara satisfactoria, se enmendara el Reglamento General de la Organización en su 29º período de sesiones de 1997.

Con relación a la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos a los recursos zoogenéticos, queremos hacer algunas consideraciones. En principio, es oportuno señalar que cuando se hace referencia a recursos genéticos en sentido amplio, se está hablando de la biodiversidad. Desde un punto de vista menos amplio, los recursos genéticos son una de las pocas cuestiones en las que pueden manifestarse la sostenibilidad. En principio no hay razones técnicas para no tratar a los recursos genéticos en su conjunto y más bien existen ventajas, algunas de las cuales han sido debidamente analizadas en los Comités respectivos. Si bien, desde el punto de vista técnico, resulta ventajoso tratar el tema de los recursos genéticos de manera global, debe tenerse en cuenta que la propuesta de ampliación implica una nueva Comisión y que, el abordaje del tema, de manera correcta, demandaría, muy probablemente, una revisión de objetivos, mecanismos operativos y articulación logística de las representaciones. Tal vez no debiera dudarse en el tratamiento global, pero sí medir las posibilidades financieras de la Organización para afrontar estas nuevas actividades.

En este contexto, estimamos que la FAO debería concluir sus trabajos sobre recursos fitogenéticos y no estimamos conveniente ampliar el mandato de la Comisión a los recursos zoogenéticos en este momento, basado en las imposibilidades financieras que la consideración de este tema demandaría.

La Delegación Argentina, señor Presidente, podría revisar esta decisión en caso de proponer, la Secretaría, una propuesta más viable desde el punto de vista económico para la consideración de este tema. Muchísimas gracias.

Vernon DOUGLAS (Trinidad and Tobago): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor at this time. As usual, I shall be speaking on behalf of the 13 Member States of CARICOM.

Mr Chairman, my delegation supports adoption of the Report. We also have a brief comment, which, however, comes under the follow-up to UNCED and preparation for the Commission on Sustainable Development, 3rd session. In keeping with your ruling a short while ago, this will have to be made when Agenda Item 12 is taken.

Alan AMEY (Canada): Thank you, Mr Chairman. We would like to support the report from COAG. It's a very good report and a good, balanced report.

With regard to document CL 108/9-Sup. 2, we would like to endorse the work done by the CEPM, and we would like to recommend for approval of the Conference, as was recognized by both Australia and the United States, the three standards. It is a standard for plant quarantine, the guidelines on pest risk analysis, and, finally, the code of conduct for the important release of exotic bio-control agents.

In line with the work of the IPPC, this will obviously be growing in the future, and we will come back to this later at budget time, but there will be a question of support for IPPC in the financial implications for the budget. Ultimately, we would like to see the IPPC amended in line with the SPS agreement of the Uruguay Round. I have noticed that some countries are from what I hear so far, the vast majority of countries seem to be supporting these guidelines, although a couple of countries are not able to do so at this time.

I am hoping that some procedural way can be found without infringing on any national sovereignty issues, whether some procedural way could be found to advance the work of the CEPM and still not affect negatively the countries that have had some problems with the agreement.

With regard to moving the nutritional item to the Committee on Food Security, we support it. It sounds like a good proposal to integrate more closely the work on nutrition and food security. It is a long overdue improvement.

Finally, with regard to the prior informed consent clause, I believe there was some initiative to get an external donor to fund the negotiation process. I believe this was going to cost something in the nature of US \$1 or 2 million, if memory serves me well, and I am wondering if the Secretariat can advise us if an external donor

has been found to fund the negotiation process. We will have to come back to this in the budget debate, but I think it would be very helpful to us if we knew if an external donor had come forward on this. Without further ado we recommend this report for adoption.

Salah HAMDI (Tunisie): Ma délégation apporte son appui au rapport du Comité de l'agriculture et je tiens en particulier à souligner l'importance et l'appui qu'accorde ma délégation à certaines questions que nous estimons importantes mais bien entendu sans minimiser de quelque manière que ce soit les autres questions signalées dans la première partie du document. Je souligne en particulier les recommandations relatives au suivi de la CNUED particulièrement en matière de développement agricole durable et de protection de l'environnement et sur le rôle normatif de la FAO dans ces domaines si importants pour la garantie d'un développement agricole durable et d'une augmentation de la production agricole dans le sens d'une sécurité alimentaire durable et de l'éradication de la pauvreté et de la faim.

Mon appui s'adresse en particulier aux paragraphes 13, 42 et 49 concernant toutes les questions relatives au suivi de la CNUED. J'appuie également la paragraphe 15, qui traite de la lutte contre la pauvreté, de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition.

Le rôle de la FAO en matière d'assistance technique aux pays membres pour l'ajustement de leur politique agricole en vue de se préparer et de s'adapter aux changements découlant de l'Accord d'Uruguay est également un domaine important que les pays en développement, et plus particulièrement les pays moins avancés, à faibles revenus et à déficit vivrier, attendent donc de la FAO. Sans oublier de mentionner, bien sûr, la question des pays importateurs nets que l'on vient d'examiner dans le rapport du Comité des produits.

Les paragraphes 25 et 27 traitent aussi des questions intégrées dans le cadre du Programme EMPRES, particulièrement en ce qui concerne la lutte contre les ravageurs et la lutte contre les maladies animales, domaines que nous considérons également hautement prioritaires dans les préoccupations de la FAO pour les prochaines années; cela sans oublier, évidemment, la priorité à accorder au développement de la recherche et de la technologie au service du développement agricole, de la diversification et de la transformation des produits agricoles pour un meilleur avenir en matière d'alimentation.

Ma délégation appuie également le processus d'élargissement de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques.

Voilà ce que j'ai à dire, au nom de ma délégation - sans exclure, évidemment, l'appui que nous accordons aux autres questions, mais pour gagner du temps -, au sujet de notre appui des recommandations contenues dans le rapport du Comité de l'agriculture, Comité auquel je renouvelle l'appui général de ma délégation.

Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy): Thank you, Mr Chairman, the Italian delegation wishes to endorse the document CL 108/9 containing the report of the last session of the Committee on Agriculture and would like to make a few comments about it.

First of all, we have noted with satisfaction that poverty alleviation, food security, and nutrition have been considered among the most important priorities of FAO. Furthermore, we share the opinion expressed by the Committee in accordance with which a sustainable increase in food production and productivity is an essential medium-term activity leading to food security, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries. In this context we recognize the relevance of the special programme for increasing food production.

Now I would like to deal with two issues debated at the last session of COAG with our active participation. Concerning the first issue, that is, the FAO Programme on the Management of Animal Genetic Resources, we are aware of the important role that FAO can play in the field of the conservation of animal genetic resources by assisting the governments in the implementation of the Convention on Bio-diversity and of Agenda 21 of UNCED.

With reference to paragraph 35, we share the recommendations of the Committee in accordance with which the Programme for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources should be implemented gradually, taking into account the serious financial implications of the Programme.

Concerning the second issue, that is, the proposal of broadening the mandate of the Commission on Plant and Genetic Resources to other genetic resources for food and agriculture, we confirm our support for this initiative. With regard to paragraph 39, recalling what we said at the last session of COAG, we agree with the recommendation to follow a step-by-step approach and to start with the animal genetic resources. This gradual approach is also suggested by the fact that the Commission of Plant Genetic Resources is presently involved in important activities concerning the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant and Genetic Resources and the preparation of the 4th International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources to be held in Germany in 1996.

We would like also to confirm that we will examine the possibility to grant a contribution for this initiative, notwithstanding our current financial constraints, in case that it is approved.

Finally, we can accept on an experimental basis the suggestion to shift the debate on nutrition matters to the Committee on Food Security.

Prabhu Dayal MEENA (India): Thank you, Mr Chairman, my delegation first of all, compliments the FAO Secretariat for preparing this excellent document, CL 108/9. In this regard my delegation would like to make the following points, Mr Chairman:

First, my delegation fully endorses the views of COAG that poverty alleviation, food security, and nutrition should rank high among FAO's priorities.

Second, my delegation shares the view of COAG that FAO is the appropriate institution to globally assist countries in the management of their genetic resources.

Third, regarding broadening of the mandate of CPGR, my delegation feels that it would be desirable to formulate policies about the whole gamut of agro-biodiversity - for example, plants, livestock, and fish - in integrated manner.

Fourth, regarding implementation of International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides, my delegation is happy to inform that India is one of the many countries who adopted an International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides in 1985. India has also a comprehensive Act called the Insecticide Act 1968, which regulates import, manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of pesticides. Further, India has nominated its Designate National Authority, DNA, as required under the PIC procedures in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, which is working under Union Ministry of Agriculture for Pesticides. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay algún otro Miembro del Consejo que desee hacer uso de la palabra? Si no es así, me voy a permitir ofrecerla a los observadores. El distinguido observador por la Federación Rusa nos ha pasado un texto que se incluirá en el verbatim. Tengo, además, al distinguido observador por Islandia y también al representante de la Organización Árabe para el Desarrollo Agropecuario y a la Unión de Consumidores. Tiene la palabra el distinguido observador por Islandia.

Björn SIGURBJÖRNSSON (Observer for Iceland): Mr Chairman, unfortunately my country could not take part in the deliberations of COAG and make its views known during the Committee meeting.

The report before us reflects the wide scope of issues dealt with by the Committee. We certainly welcome the increased emphasis given to the conservation and management of genetic resources, plants, animals and other organisms of value, or potential value to agriculture. The Committee rightly recognizes that without availability of genetic diversity for plant and animal breeders, our crop and livestock productivity would quickly decline. The Organization is here taking a long-term view because the benefits of gene banks will affect our ability to maintain sustainable food production into the next century.

Similarly, the concerns shown for the protection of the environment reveal a long-term view and realization that there may be no future for food production if we produce at the expense of our natural resources and our sensitive eco-systems.

Considering the concern for the well-being of our descendants and unborn generations expressed in these recommendations of COAG, it is both sad and surprising to read about the lack of attention, care and concern for the place of research within the Organization. The Committee report reminds me of the time some years ago when it was not considered appropriate for FAO to be concerned with research. In fact, the Secretariat was forbidden to use the word 'research' in their programmes and report texts. The same research phobia is reflected in this document. Is one to believe that the august Committee on Agriculture is not aware of the fact that without a strong research base in agriculture in developing and developed countries alike, everything else in this otherwise serious and comprehensive report and its recommendations is of absolutely no use? No amount of codes of conduct or collections of genetic material or environmental protection or concern for balanced nutrition will weigh much in our fight to produce enough food for the population within the lifetime of our children and grandchildren. We are not talking about some time in the future when the sun starts to dim. We are talking about a world fifty years from now, the length of time which has elapsed since the end of the last World War, which is still vivid in the memory of many of the Council members. It is shuddering to think that we do not know how to produce enough food for the population (perhaps ten to twelve billion) which will then occupy our houses and our lands. I think it ought to be clear to all that without technological and biological breakthrough based on an intense research effort to enable us to double yields and to double the efficiency of import use, we are doomed to fail in our tasks. Yet we read in the report under "Matters requiring the attention of the Council" that COAG has "agreed that research development should have considerable priority". The medium and long-term priorities in paragraphs 15 to 21 make no mention of this prerequisite for advances in food production. The only four-lined paragraph, No. 29, referring to research development, reflects the frightening lack of understanding of the basic tenet for progress in agriculture and food productivity. It is to be hoped that Council members will recognize where food production priorities should lie and will instruct the Organization to act accordingly.

A.T. ABDEL HAFEEZ (Observer for the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development) (Original language Arabic): Actually, Mr Chairman, I did not ask for the floor, but as a response to your questions and since you are giving me this opportunity, I should like to point out that our Organization attaches great importance to biodiversity. We are collaborating with the Regional Bureau of FAO in Cairo. We have indeed convened a number of meetings in which FAO has participated, and our General Secretariat thinks that such an initiative is very important.

As far as training is concerned, I believe that we should attach priority to training aspects. As far as the exchange of experience is concerned, I believe that this is very important because some countries do have a wealth of experience and they should therefore share their knowledge with other less favoured countries.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor observador por la Organización Árabe para el Desarrollo Agropecuario. Tengo aquí una nota suya pidiéndonos la palabra, por eso se la he ofrecido. Tiene la palabra el observador por la Unión de Consumidores.

Ms Barbara DENHAM (Observer for the Consumers Union): We would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to put the views of Consumer International and of the Pesticide Action Network, which group I am also representing at this meeting.

The International Code of Conduct on the distribution of use of pesticides has now been in place for ten years and has achieved significant success in raising awareness of pesticide problems and setting standards for safer use. The Code has achieved widespread recognition and is unique in the consensual support accorded to it by all parties. However, we were concerned to see in the survey conducted by FAO for the Tenth Anniversary of the Code that progress has been made on introducing pesticide legislation and regulations but that the health hazards remain a major problem and that the effect of pesticides on the environment was substantially worse than it was in 1986, though that may reflect some increased awareness of the importance of the subject.

We would like to draw attention to the fact that the pesticide market is increasing more rapidly in developing countries than in industrialized countries, with industry estimates suggesting that 35 percent of sales will be to developing countries by the year 2000. Already pesticides which are hazardous to health are more widely used in developing countries. A significant pesticide production, particularly of some of the older and more hazardous pesticides, is now based in newly industrializing countries and in developing countries. We therefore very much welcome the two related initiatives of strengthening the Code and introducing a legally binding instrument for the PIG procedure.

We have made suggestions on strengthening the Code and these were submitted to the COAG meeting. Given the long time-scale and the busy agenda, we see no reason to bring these before the Council at this stage, but we ask that NGOs are given the opportunity to contribute their views to the process of developing a stronger Code of Conduct.

We would like to emphasize in particular at this stage the need to strengthen the IPM element in the Code to consciously link this with sustainable agricultural and rural development and to give due recognition to the participatory nature of integrated pest management. We are also concerned that the implementation of the PIC procedure may be hampered while discussions surrounding a Convention are underway and would urge that sufficient resources are made available for both these procedures to continue.

The continuing health and environmental pesticide problems lend urgency to the need for strong support for integrated pest management and sustainable agricultural and rural development to inform all future agricultural and rural developments.

EL PRESIDENTE: Con esto concluye la lista de oradores. Pregunto al Consejo si hay alguna otra intervención que deseen hacer. Bien, en este caso me voy a permitir pedir al señor Sawadogo que ofrezca las aclaraciones y respuestas correspondientes a sus preguntas.

A. SAWADOGO (Sous-Directeur général, Département de l'agriculture): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais par votre intermédiaire remercier les membres du Conseil pour leurs interventions extrêmement riches, très nombreuses et très détaillées. Mes collègues qui sont auprès de moi ont pris des notes sur bon nombre de ces questions et il me paraît assez difficile de répondre à toutes les interrogations. Je voudrais néanmoins en prendre deux ou trois de manière rapide.

Je voudrais commencer par dire que la réalité de l'importance accordée par la FAO à la recherche n'est peut être pas bien reflétée dans ce document, mais il me semble que les faits sont plus importants que le document lui-même. Notre ami de l'Islande sait aussi bien que moi qu'à l'intérieur de l'Organisation la recherche a une place prépondérante. Il en va de même pour l'amélioration des ressources humaines, l'importance des ressources humaines, qui ont été mises en relief par la Malaisie et le Swaziland en particulier.

Je voudrais dire également un mot de la question du Canada. J'espère que ce pays est à la recherche d'encouragement pour être le second contributeur pour le financement de la négociation sur le consentement préalable. D'après les informations qui me sont communiquées par mes collaborateurs, les besoins pour conduire avec l'UNEP la totalité de ces négociations s'élèvent à près de 2 millions et demi de dollars qui financeraient trois réunions de négociations. Un des facteurs de coût est évidemment les coûts exposés pour la présence de représentants de pays en développement. Ce sont des coûts importants pour que la négociation ait tout son sens. Les Pays-Bas ont offert à la réunion du PNUE à Nairobi d'abriter la dernière séance de négociations. Nous espérons qu'ils interviendront aussi pour d'autres séances et non pas seulement pour la dernière. Mais d'après les estimations il faudra trouver une somme d'un million ou d'un million et demi de dollars pour lesquels le PNUE et la FAO espèrent que d'autres contributions vont se faire jour.

Dans les questions pour lesquelles nous avons sollicité les directives du Conseil, je crois que c'est à propos du transfert des discussions sur la sécurité alimentaire que nous avons eu les réponses les plus nettes, en particulier de faire ce transfert à titre provisoire, donc avec possibilité de confirmation plus tard lorsque l'expérience se sera montrée positive.

Pour ce qui est de la nature des groupes de travail, que ce soit pour les ressources génétiques animales ou pour tout autre groupe de travail, on retrouve les mêmes arguments en faveur de groupes gouvernementaux ou de groupes constitués de techniciens. Nous allons revoir ces questions en détail et je pense que déjà une première réponse sera donnée lors de la réunion du Comité de rédaction.

Le Japon a également soulevé des questions importantes sur lesquelles des informations complémentaires doivent être fournies à la délégation japonaise qui n'a pas encore officiellement reçu le texte. Nous nous permettrons de le faire dans le courant de la semaine de manière relativement approfondie.

Je voudrais m'arrêter là pour ce qui est de mes commentaires et remercier toutes les personnes qui sont intervenues et celles qui ne sont pas intervenues. Dans ma culture on dit: "qui ne dit rien, veut bien". Je pense que c'est parce que ces personnes approuvent ce rapport qu'elles nous laissent le soin de le dire.

Je voudrais remercier tout le monde pour les directives qui nous ont été données, pour les avis et les commentaires qui ont été faits sur ce rapport.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, distinguidos delegados, como les había advertido este tema es obviamente muy complejo. No llegó el COAG a consenso en todos los aspectos de su informe. Aquí el Consejo se expresó en torno al debate sostenido en el COAG. Al hacerlo, el Consejo endosó el informe del 13° período de sesiones del COAG; elogió la labor realizada por la Secretaría en la preparación de los documentos y el debate sostenido se consideró útil y de profundidad, así como las conclusiones alcanzadas. Se advirtió que las múltiples recomendaciones de dicho Comité tenían importantes implicaciones de carácter programático y también presupuestario. Estas últimas se revisarán a la luz del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y, desde luego, de los recursos financieros disponibles para su financiación, o los ajustes consecuentes que su adopción conlleve.

Varias delegaciones indicaron, respecto de los temas tratados en el informe, que había la necesidad aún de incluir o ampliar otros, tales como la situación de la agricultura y también los temas relativos al impacto de la Ronda Uruguay, sobre países en desarrollo importadores netos de alimentos.

Se llamó la atención del Consejo, también, sobre la importancia de la investigación agrícola y la utilización de tecnología apropiada. Se destacó que en última instancia el propósito de estos programas era el logro de una mayor producción y productividad agrícola, que estaba encaminada e inscrita en el contexto del logro de una seguridad alimentaria a nivel mundial, regional y nacional.

En lo que se refiere al tema de los recursos fitogenéticos, se recordó el debate en cuanto a que la Comisión que trata este tema tiene en su agenda ya temas tan importantes, como el compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos y la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre el estado y el plan de acción de recursos fitogenéticos, y que encargada como estaba la comisión a adicionarle temas, llevaría quizá a reducir el tiempo disponible para sus debates o no lograr la profundidad deseada.

Si bien se apreció la labor del actual grupo de trabajo gubernamental sobre recursos fitogenéticos, varias delegaciones apoyaron la propuesta de que éste quedara constituido por expertos técnicos. Otros hablaron de la conveniencia de establecer grupos de trabajo intergubernamentales con un tratamiento temático que permitiera ampliar los diversos aspectos que trataría la Comisión.

Se advirtió, en estos dos sentidos, que unas y otras propuestas tienen implicaciones de carácter presupuestario sobre los costos involucrados.

Varios delegados no aceptaron la propuesta de la Secretaría presentada en el COAG de crear pequeños grupos de trabajo técnicos que resultarían, quizá, mucho más baratos. El Consejo no llegó a un consenso en ese sentido; sin embargo el Consejo recomendó a la Conferencia que, en principio, debería ampliarse la Comisión sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para incluir los organismos utilizados para la agricultura y la alimentación, pero que este proceso no debería poner en peligro el tratamiento y la armonización del compromiso internacional de recursos fitogenéticos con la Convención sobre la Diversidad Biológica; que la ampliación de la Comisión debería considerar sus implicaciones financieras y que, sin perjuicio de la estructura de los grupos de trabajo

subordinados a la Comisión, al tratar las distintas categorías y organismos incluidos en el mandato ampliado de la Comisión, estos grupos podrían constituirse de diversa manera.

Varios delegados insistieron en estos temas y, sobre todo, en que el proceso de ampliación de la Comisión recibiera un tratamiento o un enfoque de carácter gradual.

En lo que se refiere al examen de las normas para la armonización de la cuarentena de las plantas, el Consejo tomó nota de que el COAG aprobó dos normas - me refiero a las directrices para el análisis del riesgo de plagas y el código de conducta para la importación y liberación de agentes exóticos de lucha biológica - a reserva del examen y aprobación por el Comité de Expertos sobre medidas fitosanitarias.

El Consejo tomó nota de los textos revisados acordados por el Comité de Expertos sobre Medidas Fitosanitarias, aunque varios delegados advirtieron que estaba pendiente el análisis integral de riesgo de plagas y, asimismo, destacaron que no estaba madura una decisión sobre el código de conducta para la importación y liberación de agentes exóticos de lucha biológica. La participación de expertos fitosanitarios era innecesaria, estaba pendiente, y debía encontrarse por tanto un procedimiento para progresar hacia el logro de un acuerdo.

Se tomó nota también de que el Comité de Expertos sobre Medidas Fitosanitarias había elaborado un texto revisado sobre requisitos para el establecimiento de zonas libres de plagas, que se distribuiría en breve a los miembros de la FAO para que lo examinarán.

Queda pendiente, desde luego, un examen satisfactorio de este punto para su adopción y decisión al respecto.

Se tomó nota, asimismo, de que la Conferencia en su 28º período de sesiones debería decidir si en circunstancias excepcionales podría suspenderse el procedimiento normal para la adopción de normas sobre cuarentena de las plantas.

El Consejo recomendó que se suprimiera la Fase 9, aceptación oficial de los gobiernos del procedimiento para la elaboración y aprobación de normas. Acogió también las medidas que se habían adoptado para determinar las consecuencias financieras, y de otro tipo, de la Enmienda de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria, en consonancia con los acuerdos sanitarios y fitosanitarios de la Ronda Uruguay y las últimas novedades en la creación de un mecanismo para el establecimiento de normas en el ámbito de la CIPF.

Se expresó que se requería claridad sobre estos temas y la conveniencia de contar con un informe acerca de esta cuestión para su examen en el próximo período de sesiones del Consejo.

Sobre el procedimiento ICP, se informó al Consejo sobre la decisión del Consejo de Administración del PNUMA, que se reunió en este año, respecto de la elaboración de un instrumento jurídico vinculante para el procedimiento ICP. Por tanto, creo que se puede concluir que se acogió favorablemente la estrecha colaboración de la FAO con ese organismo, respecto de este proceso, con vistas a la convocatoria de un Comité intergubernamental de negociación que se encargará de preparar un instrumento internacionalmente vinculante para la aplicación del procedimiento ICP con respecto a algunos productos químicos peligrosos para el comercio internacional lo antes posible.

Acojo yo también, favorablemente, la convocatoria a un grupo de expertos designados por los gobiernos para examinar y recomendar qué otras medidas se necesitan para reducir los riesgos derivados de un número limitado de productos químicos peligrosos, tanto en el ámbito del procedimiento actual del ICP, como fuera de él.

Se instó a que la FAO facilitara la asistencia técnica a los países que no podían aplicar las disposiciones del Código internacional de conducta. Finalmente algunas delegaciones ofrecieron su asistencia para financiar la sesión negociadora de la Conferencia sobre el ICP que en principio tendría lugar en septiembre o noviembre de 1995.

Sobre la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición, se instó a todos los países a ejecutar plenamente las disposiciones de la Declaración de Roma sobre nutrición y se pidió a la FAO que facilitara también asistencia técnica a los Estados Miembros que lo necesitaran o solicitaran, y se instó, también, a la FAO a que tomara las medidas necesarias para celebrar reuniones de países desarrollados sobre el tema de la nutrición, tal como lo había recomendado el COAG.

En lo que se refieren, finalmente, al tema de las transferencias de las cuestiones de nutrición del COAG al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, se recomendó a la Conferencia que transfiriera el actual tema sobre la nutrición del Programa 14 del 14º período de Sesiones del COAG, al correspondiente período de reuniones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en 1997. Se recordó al respecto, no obstante, que la nutrición está íntimamente vinculada tanto a la producción de alimentos como a los otros aspectos del desarrollo agrícola, pesquero, forestal, rural y general y, por ello, varias delegaciones instaron a que tanto en los períodos de decisiones del COAG como del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, se examine plenamente la vinculación de la nutrición y las actividades agrícolas según proceda. El tratamiento de los temas relativos al comercio, sin embargo, algunas delegaciones solicitaron que se mantuvieran en los respectivos Comités de agricultura, en pesca y forestal.

Finalmente, se reiteró también la propuesta de que la FAO establezca un programa y el órgano correspondiente para el tratamiento de los temas de la ganadería.

Bien, distinguidos delegados sé que el debate fue mucho más rico; obviamente, el resumen de la Presidencia tiene involucrado la propia interpretación del Presidente de sus debates; no es una camisa de once varas que se le imponga al Comité de Redacción, ustedes están libres de expresar sus puntos de vista como lo deseen. Esta es simplemente la forma en que he recogido el debate.

Veo que hay una delegación que desea hacer comentarios respecto de mi resumen, y se la ofrezco al distinguido delegado de Brasil.

Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil): Mr Chairman, a small point of clarification. As far as you can recall, all the delegations that expressed points of view on the broadening of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources supported the inter-governmental shape of the technical advisory groups that could be created. Only my delegation opposed that and we would like that to be reported. Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de Brasil. Por eso es que yo indiqué al principio que no había habido consenso en este Consejo respecto de estas cuestiones y, efectivamente, fue la distinguida delegación de Estados Unidos la que subrayó su interés de que quedara constituido, en vez de un Grupo intergubernamental, un grupo de expertos técnicos. Yo no sé si requiere alguna otra aclaración.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, con esto concluyo el tratamiento del Tema 6..

Victor ZVEZDIN (Observer for Russian Federation): First of all, we should like to express our gratitude

to you, Mr Chairman, Director-General, Council, other FAO bodies, for giving my country the possibility to participate in the work of the Organization in the capacity of Observer.

Our delegation took part in the Sessions of the Committees on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the work of which we consider now. They had the possibility to state their concrete and specific views on corresponding subjects.

Now, we want to express the understanding that our cooperation with the Organization, we hope, is mutually beneficial, especially in such fields as statistics, plant genetic resources and others. It is well known that Russia has one of the best and large collections of plant genetic resources.

We highly appreciate the work of the Regional Office for Europe, whose activities are useful for countries of Central and Eastern Europe with economy in transition.

We consider that the European System of Cooperative Research Networks in Agricultural is successful. It is functioning on a voluntary basis and unites research institutes and laboratories of more than 86 countries.

My country will intensify the participation of experts in its activities and in many other fields.

Moreover, we feel that the time will come soon when Russia will be a full Member of FAO.

Thank you, Sir.¹

7. (part of) Report of the Twenty-first Session of the Committee on Fisheries

7. (partiel) Rapport de la vingt et unième session du Comité des pêches

7. (parte de) Informe del 21º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca

W. KRONE (Assistant Director-General, a.i, Fisheries Department): The Twenty-first Session of COFI showed a record attendance, with 101 members and 15 other states participating, together with representatives from three UN Agencies and Observers from 23 international organizations. The Session was attended by about 450 people.

The Session met at a most critical time, with worldwide recognition of the fact that most of the world fish stocks were being harvested near or beyond any sustainable level. The Session reaffirmed that FAO had a clear mandate for fisheries and was a leading Specialized Agency within the UN System. It further agreed that an improvement in fisheries conservation and management was essential for long-term sustainable fisheries development. This view was also confirmed at the subsequent ministerial meeting, which adopted, as you all know, the Rome Consensus on Fisheries. The Session noted that international cooperation was essential for effective fisheries management and hence under-scored that regional fisheries bodies should be strengthened as a means of achieving such cooperation. In this context, I might just mention that the week before last the Twenty-first Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean took place in Alicante in Spain and at that Session a real landmark was reached in the transition of this body from being a mere advisory body to being a regional fisheries management organization. Several key issues, for instance, on blue fin tuna management, on the compliance agreement, on effort control and on the environment, were clarified, and four binding resolutions were passed, attempting to rectify four fisheries management practices and thus to improve the state of the fisheries of the Mediterranean.

It should be pointed out here that such additional responsibilities on the part of our regional fisheries bodies will call for additional resources and the strengthening of the functions of those bodies. Only then will they be able to meet the challenges and increasing demands of their members.

Mr Chairman, COFI also considered the need to assist developing countries, especially the specific social and economic needs and circumstances of small island developing States. The programme of assistance for fisheries conservation management and development in these island States proposed by FAO was strongly endorsed by COFI. The Committee selected priority areas of the programme and requested that the Organization elaborate a programme for the international donor community.

Finally, Mr Chairman, in accordance with the recommendation of your last Session, COFI considered the broadening of the scope of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to include other categories of organisms used for food and agriculture. The Committee welcomed this proposal in principle but recommended a step-by-step approach to incorporating aquatic resources into the new Commission.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias doctor Krone por sus comentarios introductorios. Voy a abrir la lista de oradores de manera preliminar; no la voy a cerrar y, les pregunto a ustedes, distinguidos delegados, si desean hacer uso de la palabra respecto de este tema. Les advierto, desde luego, que lo que tiene que hacer nuestro Consejo es aprobar el Informe del COFI a reserva de ulteriores comentarios, claro, que ustedes deseen hacer. ¿Hay alguna delegación que va a hacer uso de la palabra o, podemos, quizás, adoptar el Informe de inmediato?

Así lo decide el Consejo y con ello terminamos el Tema 7 de nuestra agenda. Le felicito a usted doctor Krone.

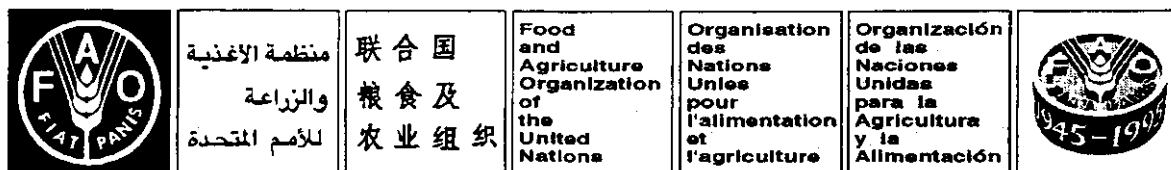
The meeting rose at 12.40 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas.

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

7 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108º período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

7 June 1995

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)**ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)****ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)**

- 8. Report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Forestry (Rome, 13-17 March 1995)**
- 8. Rapport de la douzième session du Comité des forêts (Rome, 13-17 mars 1995)**
- 8. Informe del 12º período de sesiones del Comité de Montes (Roma, 13-17 marzo de 1995)**

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes, distinguidos delegados y observadores. Me permito abrir la Sexta Sesión Plenaria de nuestro Consejo. Tenemos ante nosotros el Tema 8 de nuestra agenda, el Informe del Comité Forestal. Antes de dar inicio a este tema me voy a permitir recordarles que aquellos países que tengan interés en participar en el grupo de trabajo para la revisión del proyecto de Declaración de Quebec, indiquen su interés a la Secretaría. Tenemos ya una lista de países, pero antes de leerles los nombres quisiéramos completarla. Si no hay ninguna observación me permito entonces pasar al tema 8 de nuestra agenda. Le voy a pedir al Sr. Harcharik que nos presente el informe del 12º período de sesiones del Comité de Montes. Tiene usted la palabra.

David HARCHARIK (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to draw your attention to the document CL 108/8 which, as you know, is the report of the 12th session of the Committee on Forestry, more commonly called COFO.

Some of you may recall that the 12th session of COFO, held from 13 to 16 March 1995, had the highest ever attendance with participation from 114 members of the Committee, fifteen other Member Nations, one UN Member Nation, observers from 20 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations and many others within and outside the UN System.

The session was also special in that it was immediately followed by the first meeting ever which was convened by the Director-General for ministers responsible for forestry. That meeting was attended by 54 ministers and senior officials from 70 other countries apart from observers from international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Chairman, the Committee and the Ministerial Meeting focused their attention on management and sustainable development of forests with the main thrust being to help prepare for review, by the 3rd session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in April, progress in implementation of UNCED agreements related to forestry. This function presented a great opportunity to influence decisions at a political level which the CSD was expected to take at its April session.

Chairman, I think most of us know that the COFO and the Meeting of Ministers were also preceded by two other very important events. One was a meeting of the private forest industries, and a second was a meeting of non-governmental organizations. Together these two meetings, along with the ministerial and COFO, provided some very good advice to FAO on its future programme of work, and I should add that they were also extremely helpful to me personally as I begin my current assignment with FAO.

Chairman, I would draw your attention and that of the distinguished delegates to only a few key points under the three agenda items addressed by COFO. First, relating to the management and sustainable development of forests. The Committee considered the report on post-UNCED progress prepared by FAO in its role as task manager, which had been the basis of the UN Secretary General's report to the CSD. The Committee was also informed that the *ad hoc* intersessional working group of the CSD, which met in February and early March, had recommended that the April 1995 session of the CSD establish an intergovernmental panel on forests under its own aegis to pursue further consensus building on outstanding issues.

The Committee recommended that FAO respond positively to the recommendation of the intersessional working group of the CSD and that we be prepared to participate in the work of the intergovernmental panel. The Meeting of Ministers responsible for forestry also welcomed the proposal for the CSD to consider the establishment of this panel on forests.

The third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development has, in fact, been held, and I think most delegates are aware of this. It did establish the open-ended *ad hoc* intergovernmental panel on forests to pursue a number of objectives, which included the implementation of UNCED decisions related to forests and the examination of sectorial and cross-sectorial linkages. The international cooperation and financial assistance and technology transfer, scientific research, forest assessment, and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, trade and environment relating to forest products and services and international organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments including appropriate legal mechanisms.

Chairman, I think that FAO can contribute a great deal to most of these tasks that the CSD will take up. The panel is expected to submit its recommendations and proposals for action to the CSD's 5th session in 1997 and a progress report to its 4th session next year.

Chairman, we expect that the first organizational meeting of the intergovernmental panel will take place very soon. It is in this context that FAO has been guided by the recommendation of COFO and which was reiterated by the ministerial meeting that, as task manager within the UN system for forestry, we respond positively to the intergovernmental panel on forests and that we be prepared to participate in the process associated with it.

I can report that we are maintaining regular communication with the UN Secretariat on how the Panel can best draw upon our capacities and capabilities not only in forestry but also in forestry-related aspects of other land use sectors and in rural development. To facilitate this, the Forestry Department's Task Force, which has provided technical advice in UNCED follow-ups on forests, is now being expanded beyond the Forestry Department to include senior staff from the Departments of Agriculture, Economic and Social, General Affairs, Information, Sustainable Development, Technical Cooperation and the Office of External Relations. We will use this group to guide us in providing support to the Inter-Governmental Panel on Forests. We very much welcome the guidance of this Council as to the nature of our support to the Panel.

My second point deals with COFO's discussion of our Regular and Field Programmes and our medium-term perspectives and priorities. The overall context of resource and budgetary implications will be dealt with separately when you discuss Item 16, which is the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, so I shall not elaborate now. I would like to stress, though, that we have paid great attention to the advice of COFO and the ministerial meeting in developing our proposals for future work. We will intensify our focus on priority matters in which we have particular strengths and responsibilities. COFO provided important guidance in those areas which it believed should be FAO's priorities.

Mr Chairman, the third item that COFO addressed dealt with the FAO Governing Bodies' recommendations of other FAO statutory bodies in forestry and follow-up to the XIth Session of COFO. The Committee considered the recommendations of the governing bodies and other statutory bodies in Forestry as well as follow-up to its own earlier recommendations. I very much invite the Council to express its views on all the proposals or recommendations of the Committee under these topics, and particularly on that relating to the activities of Regional Forestry Commissions.

Mr Chairman, since the COFO meeting we have also benefited from the views of the Programme Committee. We now very much look forward to the advice of Council.

In closing, I wish to add that to implement this Programme in full under the current budgetary situation will be far from easy. More and more, therefore, we will seek to expand partnerships among the UN System and beyond, in order to make efficient use of available resources and to minimize the duplication of effort. We also hope that both under our normative and operational functions member countries may be willing to provide complementary resources.

Mr Chairman, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the support being provided through multi-donor Trust Funds to high priority programmes such as the Forestries and People Programme and the Forest Resources Assessment Programme. I very much hope that such commitment will be continued and may also even grow.

Mr Chairman, we will be pleased to answer any question that the delegations may have. We will take careful note of the observations and recommendations of the Council. In particular, we look forward to a very open and constructive dialogue with Council Members now and at any other time. We feel that such dialogue leads to better programmes through which trees and forests can contribute to development and human well-being.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Harcharik por sus comentarios introductorios que son explícitos y creo que constituyen una buena base para las discusiones y las decisiones que debe tomar el Consejo. Les recuerdo, distinguidos delegados, que la decisión que tiene que tomar este Consejo es la de aprobar el informe; les recuerdo también que, conforme al documento CL 108/LIM/3, los párrafos 28 al 38 del informe del Comité Forestal se refieren a las indicaciones presupuestales de las acciones suscitadas en dicho Comité, las mismas que se verán en el Tema 16.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, abro ahora la lista de oradores sobre este tema de nuestra agenda. Dejo todavía abierta la lista de oradores y llamo al distinguido Delegado de Canadá.

Robert VANIER (Canada): Des progrès considérables ont été réalisés depuis le Sommet de la terre tenu à Rio en 1992. Nous devons absolument continuer à favoriser l'avancement de l'agenda forestier pour assurer la conservation, le développement et la gestion durable des forêts de la planète.

Le rôle de la FAO en tant que gestionnaire des activités de suivi de la CNUED est important et, vue la place éminente accordée aux forêts dans l'agenda international, nous continuons d'inciter la FAO à prévoir dans son budget ordinaire les ressources nécessaires afin d'appuyer adéquatement les activités forestières.

Nous tenons à féliciter la FAO d'avoir organisé la première réunion des Ministres des forêts. A cette occasion, notre Ministre a souligné l'importance que le Canada attache à l'élaboration d'un cadre mondial consensuel pour les critères et les indicateurs de l'aménagement forestier durable.

Nous sommes d'avis que la FAO a un rôle important à jouer dans l'élaboration de ce cadre. Nous croyons également qu'il faut renforcer le consensus international sur les programmes non législatifs et volontaires pour la certification des produits forestiers. Nous considérons prioritaire le rôle crucial de la FAO dans la mise en oeuvre des plans d'action nationaux sur les forêts et la continuation des efforts visant à améliorer l'information sur l'état des forêts mondiales.

Le Canada appuie fortement le concept de "leadership" partagé, dans le domaine des forêts avancé par la FAO. Selon nous ce concept, dans lequel la FAO a manifestement un rôle prédominant à jouer, est essentiel pour améliorer les relations entre les organisations internationales s'intéressant aux enjeux forestiers. Ce concept sera également utile afin de bien cibler les activités opérationnelles dans ce secteur.

Le Comité des forêts et les Ministres des forêts ont convenu que la FAO doit s'occuper prioritairement de soutenir les travaux du groupe inter-gouvernemental sur les forêts, récemment formé sous l'égide de la Commission du développement durable des Nations Unies. Ce groupe est considéré comme un organe essentiel qui peut faciliter le regroupement de diverses initiatives dans un cadre international cohérent et coordonné pour l'aménagement durable des forêts. La FAO devrait donc accorder la priorité au soutien de ce groupe et y affecter les ressources financières nécessaires.

Nahi SHEBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic): We would like to thank the COFO Committee and the Secretariat representatives for the presentation of this document and I would like to share our views regarding a number of paragraphs in this document.

First, we feel that it would have been preferable to present in this document a brief insight into world forestry resources broken down into the different regions of the world, so that the Council and the Conference subsequently could have a clear picture of the state of forests in the world and the efforts that are underway, whereas the document that we have before us merely indicates that COFO and the other organizations responsible for forestry have reported on the work that they have done. Moreover, in paragraph 32 of the document we are told that there has been an assessment of forest resources, the GFRA, but there is no indication given of the contents of that document.

Turning now to paragraph 10 of this document, reference is made here to the idea of a legally binding instrument on forests. We believe that some delegations stated their support whereas others thought that this initiative was premature or undesirable.

Mr Chairman, for a global consensus to emerge concerning the protection and improvement of forest management and preservation, we believe that it would be advisable to begin to explore at least the principle of this idea and that a first outline of such a legally binding instrument for the preservation of forests should be worked out for presentation to the next session of COFO, so that it can subsequently be submitted to the forthcoming sessions of the Council and then to Conference. Such an initiative would be a considerable contribution made by FAO to the international efforts being made to ensure the preservation of nature in general and forests in particular. Moreover, we know that most countries have now developed new legislation which is much more effective in effective management conservation of forests.

Thirdly, reference was made to changes in the budget allocation. However, we read in paragraph 26 that there were certain additional budgetary allocations. Nonetheless, it will be necessary to have further increases of resources in order to adequately support forestry activities. We would certainly endorse the view of the Committee that additional resources should be made available to carry out the forestry programme. We are acutely aware of the need to generate such resources given the important role played by forests in the maintenance of ecological equilibrium as well as to curtail deforestation activities which are a source of great concern because of the adverse effect that this can have on agriculture and food production. In order to put an end to such deforestation, we must step up our efforts and enhance resources made available both nationally and internationally so as to address the tasks at hand.

As to the remainder of the document, Mr Chairman, we would endorse the views expressed by COFO.

Mrs Maria KADLECIKOVA (Slovakia): The Slovak Republic has traditionally belonged to the countries which pay great attention to forests and their management for sustainable development. At present more than 40 percent of the whole territory of Slovakia is covered by forests which are managed according to the forest management plans. Based on State Forestry Policy which was approved in 1993, forests are considered a national treasure and therefore the Government creates all legal and organizational conditions for their management for sustainable development.

The Rio Forest Principles, together with the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, the Convention on the Conservation of Biodiversity, have constituted a solid and agreed framework for identifying specific programmes of international cooperation for the management of the forests. A regional access to the realization of the conclusion of Rio is considered especially significant. For that reason, a great emphasis is put on realization of the resolution accepted at the Ministerial Conference in Strasbourg and Helsinki.

The Slovak Republic appreciates the significant position and task of FAO and its Forestry Committee as a coordinator of the initiatives and solution of problems relating to forestry. Especially we over-emphasize our activity within the scope of the FAO European Forestry Commission. We appreciate its programme accepted for supporting the countries in transition to the market economy. Due to changes arising in our country after 1989, significant structural changes are running also in forestry. We face towards a complex task to form legislative, organizational, economic and other conditions for sustainable development of forests under market economy conditions. For that reason, in November of this year we are organizing, under the joint auspices of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission, the international workshop on the topic: "Institution building, framework conditions and policy infrastructure for sustainable development of forests under market economy conditions".

We support also the initiative for the formulation of criteria and indicators for protection and sustainable development of forests. They are considered an important step to the implementation of Forestry Principles and Agenda 21 which have been accepted at the UNCED. We have started with their formulation on the national level.

We consider the question of the forests and forest products certification very important. We support the standpoint of the countries which recommend, in the first place, a proper analysis and formulation of the internationally approved criteria for such activity. We proceed from the situation in the majority of the European countries where the forests have been managed traditionally according to the forest management plans, and their realization have been supervised by the state organs and the public. Therefore, we consider it necessary to discuss these problems properly and accept the conclusions for the forest products certification, particularly on the regional level.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, sustainable development of the forests, sustainable development of the planet and civilization are in close mutual connection. Considering this, we support the FAO initiative to establish the intergovernmental panel for the issues of the sustainable development of forests under the auspices of the UN Commission on sustainable development. We expect the next turning point in the realization of the conclusions from Rio to be the 11th World Forestry Congress in the year 1997. We would like to contribute actively to that Congress, and to work together towards the common solution of problems relating to protection and conservation of our forests.

Patrick PRUVOT (France): L'Union européenne tient à exprimer sa grande satisfaction à l'égard du déroulement et des conclusions de la dernière réunion du COFO ainsi que de la dernière réunion des ministres chargés des forêts, organisée par l'OAA. Elle attache notamment la plus grande importance aux recommandations concernant la participation active de l'Organisation aux travaux du panel intergouvernemental sur les forêts.

L'Union européenne se réjouit en effet de la constitution d'un panel intergouvernemental sur les forêts tel que décidé par la troisième session de la Commission du développement durable des Nations Unies. Elle se félicite tout particulièrement des mentions qui sont faites des contributions attendues de l'OAA aux travaux du panel et à l'organisation du Secrétariat. Elle a d'ailleurs pris une part active aux négociations qui ont permis de mieux préciser le rôle de l'OAA dans le travail confié au panel. L'Union européenne invite donc instamment l'OAA à participer très étroitement à ces activités dans l'esprit de la Déclaration de Rome sur les forêts. Cette participation devrait se manifester sous deux formes: d'une part l'organisation devrait mettre à la disposition du Secrétariat du panel un ou deux collaborateurs de grande valeur et prévoir une participation financière aux frais de fonctionnement du Secrétariat afin de contribuer efficacement à la constitution d'une réelle équipe qui associerait l'OAA elle-même, le PNUE, le PNUD et l'OIBT et animée par le DPCSD. D'autre part, l'OAA devrait prendre l'initiative de proposer au panel de coordonner et de préparer quelques réunions thématiques spécifiques sur ceux des 11 thèmes de travail du panel qui relèvent plus spécifiquement des compétences techniques incontestées de l'Organisation.

L'Union européenne souhaite que cette participation aux travaux du panel soit clairement identifiée dans le budget actuel du département forestier de l'Organisation, par redéploiement, en affectant à cette tâche un haut degré de priorité notamment pour ce qui concerne le prochain biennium.

L'Union européenne attend également de l'Organisation qu'elle poursuive son évolution et son adaptation au nouveau contexte forestier international et qu'elle réponde pleinement aux attentes qu'a fait naître la nomination du nouveau Sous-Directeur général chargé des forêts. A cet égard elle appuie sans réserve le concept de leadership partagé qui a été présenté lors du dernier COFO. Elle invite l'Organisation à multiplier les initiatives conjointes comme elle l'a déjà fait dans le domaine des critères et des indicateurs de gestion durable en mobilisant au mieux les compétences complémentaires existantes du PNUE, du PNUD et de l'OIBT. Elle appelle l'Organisation à poursuivre le renforcement de ses concertations avec les ONG et le représentant des propriétaires forestiers privés et publics et le secteur privé.

Enfin, l'Union européenne exprime le souhait de voir l'Organisation continuer à coopérer très activement au suivi de la seconde Conférence ministérielle pour la protection des forêts en Europe et tout particulièrement dans le domaine des critères et des indicateurs de gestion durable des forêts. Elle invite donc l'Organisation à

prendre des initiatives conjointes avec le PNUE, le PNUD et l'OIBT en valorisant les compétences complémentaires de ces organismes afin de faire avancer ce dossier au niveau mondial dans le cadre des orientations données par le panel intergouvernemental sur les forêts.

Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy): The Italian Delegation attaches great importance to the problems related to forests and follows them with concern.

With regard to the document CL 108/8 which adequately summarizes the topics dealt with during the 12th Session of COFO, which took place from 13 to 16 March 1995, we would like to support the statement of the President of the European Union and to point out that the following recommendations appear of outstanding importance; that FAO continue and widen the collaboration with other international and intergovernmental organizations, UNDP, ITTO, World Bank, European Union that operate in closely related fields; that FAO contribute and establish an Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and on the auspices of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The Italian Delegation shares the concerns about the limited resources which are related to forestry in FAO regular budget. It is easily understood that, considering the present situation, higher priority is to be given to the Food Security Programme, but it should be stressed that a consistent part of food, both for man and for domestic animals, can be produced within the forest. In low-income food-deficit areas this point is of outstanding social and economical relevance. The importance of integrated forest development and of making the most of renewed products of the forest is therefore to be stressed out. Production of wood and food are inter-related and complementary in the forest. Improved management practices that reinforce the multiple functions of the forests contribute directly and indirectly to food security. The Italian Government is deeply interested in all the FAO programmes related to sustainable forest management but integrate forestry and food issues.

Financial support is being provided to guide the trust funds to national forest action plan, tropical forest action plan, Mediterranean forest action plan, forestry and people programmes and so on. Also, a consistent number of projects aimed at improving food security reinforcing the multiple functions of the forests are being currently supported. It is regretted that the implementation of some projects suffered an inconvenient delay because of the difficulties arising as a consequence of the ongoing restructuring of FAO, both in the production of project documents and in the recruitment of personnel. The Italian Delegation recommends to make efforts to shorten as much as possible this transitional phase to allow the new structure and assume working with renewed and reinforced effectiveness.

Mme Adelaïde RIBEBRO (Cap-Vert): Tout d'abord nous remercions le Directeur du Département des forêts pour l'excellente présentation introduisant ce point de notre ordre du jour. Nous félicitons aussi le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document.

Ayant déjà eu l'opportunité de nous exprimer au cours de la session du COFO, nous serons brefs. Ma délégation revient sur quelques points que nous jugeons importants.

En ce qui concerne la recommandation du Groupe de travail intersessions *ad hoc* de la CDD (Commission du développement durable) portant sur la création d'un groupe intergouvernemental sur les forêts, nous appuyons cette initiative et sommes d'avis que la FAO devra répondre favorablement à cette recommandation et qu'elle doit participer avec son expertise dans le processus d'élaboration du mandat et des modalités de sa création et aussi dans sa mise en oeuvre.

En ce qui concerne le PAFT, la délégation du Cap-Vert se réjouit de la priorité qui continue à être accordée à l'élaboration des plans d'actions forestiers nationaux. Au Cap-Vert, avec l'appui de la FAO, on a élaboré le PAFN qui est un instrument de planification de stratégie pour les 15 prochaines années.

Nous incitons la FAO à poursuivre ses activités dans ce domaine.

Tenant en compte le rôle important des commissions régionales des forêts, les efforts déployés par la FAO pour renforcer et élargir les activités de ces commissions, nous soutenons les recommandations faites au paragraphe 39 du document.

Cela dit, ma délégation donne son appui à l'adoption du rapport de la douzième session du Comité des forêts.

Takafumi KOJIMA (Japan): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to make a few comments on the report of the Twelfth Session of COFO. Firstly, with regard to the management and sustainable development of forests, the Third Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development has decided to establish an open-ended *ad hoc* inter-governmental panel on forestry in order to pursue consensus and a formulation of coordinated proposals for action. It is requested to draw on the resources and technical expertise of relevant organizations within and without the UN System. My delegation expects FAO, as task manager for forestry, to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with other international organizations, such as ITTO, and to actively contribute to the panel, fully utilizing its comparative advantage.

Secondly, with respect to decentralization of FAO activities, my delegation endorses enhanced decentralization of FAO activities with a view to strengthening activities based on regional situations. My delegation considers that evaluation of the impact of decentralization, including redeployment of professional staff, would be necessary in order to strengthen FAO's future activities.

Finally, in the light of the outcome of the Third Session of CSD, my delegation is of the view that a cross-sectoral approach is necessary on the causes of deforestation originating outside forestry-related problems, such as poverty, population growth, education and agricultural policy. In particular, my delegation considers that coordination between sustainable forest management and agricultural policy is an essential issue for FAO and in this regard expects the forestry and agriculture sections of FAO to closely cooperate with each other with a view to working out concrete and specific directions for cross-sectoral activities.

Ricardo LEON-VALDES (Chile): Mi Delegación, al mismo tiempo que respalda el Informe del 12º período de sesiones del COFO, quisiera aprovechar la oportunidad para formular tres breves comentarios respecto al documento para aprobación. En primer término, comparto lo expresado por el distinguido Delegado de Italia al destacar la importancia de la integración de los asuntos forestales y lo referido a la alimentación y a la agricultura. Al respecto, es importante señalar la importancia de crear capacidades respecto a la función forestal en su dimensión social, cultural y económica, como asimismo en su relación con el desarrollo sostenible y su impacto en la seguridad alimentaria, por el gran número de seres humanos cuyas posibilidades de acceso a los alimentos dependen de esos sistemas, por ser su fuente de alimentos o generación de ingresos.

Del mismo modo, en relación al párrafo 21, es interesante reconocer la interrelación existente entre el comercio y el medio ambiente. En este sentido, resultaría interesante considerar la elaboración de un estudio respecto de la internalización de los costes ambientales en el manejo sustentable de los bosques.

Finalmente, en relación al párrafo 12, es de interés para mi Delegación, dar a conocer la iniciativa que dio lugar a la creación del Grupo de países del hemisferio sur templado, que, inspirados en los principios del CNUMAD, han buscado un mecanismo de cooperación e intercambio de información ambiental, abordando específicamente el manejo sustentable de los bosques templados y la desertificación.

Klaus GARCKE (Germany): My delegation welcomes the constitution of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Forests, as recommended by the Twelfth COFO Session and decided by the Third Session on Sustainable Development. Within two years from now this Panel is expected to submit a report on its work to CSD. Hence not much time remains to arrive at concrete results on such complex issues as the criteria and indicators for sustainable management of forests, international arrangements for funding and technology transfer, timber certification and the development of globally applicable legal instruments for the sustainable development of forests.

Among the international agencies working in the field of forestry to support the Panel, FAO is in first place, as it must also comply with its role as task manager for Chapter 11 of Agenda 21. We invite FAO to play an

active part in these activities. This contribution by FAO should not be restricted to providing the Panel with the high-quality expertise available in the Organization. FAO should also assign qualified staff and earmark funds from the 1996-97 Regular Budget for the Panel's activities.

Mr Chairman, my delegation agrees with COFO's conclusion that, given the financial constraints we will face, FAO should concentrate its programme activities in the forestry sector on areas of clear comparative advantage such as the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information and policy advice, including its coordinating role in international forestry policies.

Prabhu Dayal MEENA (India): On behalf of my delegation, I thank the FAO Secretariat for the very comprehensive and useful document on Item 8, CL 108/8. My delegation is in agreement with the report of the Twelfth Session of the Committee on Forestry and fully endorses the views of the Committee. My delegation wishes to make the following observations.

First, the allocation for forestry within FAO is only US\$ 30.8 million, which is not adequate to carry out the many works and programmes on forestry. The allocation in this sector should therefore be considerably enhanced.

Second, we support the leading role played by FAO in the field of forestry and in promoting sustainable forestry management across the globe, particularly in view of the expertise in forestry available to them. My country is deeply interested in promoting such sustainable development in the field of forestry. In order to support sustainable forestry, the Indian delegation wishes to inform the Council that India has entered into an agreement with UNDP and FAO and has signed a two-year project for the preparation of a National Forestry Action Plan. Considerable progress has been made and the final document on the National Forestry Action Plan is expected to be ready by the end of this year.

Ms Lisa Bobbie SCHREIBER HUGHES (United States of America): The United States continues to view the FAO Forestry Department as a unique organization, which addresses sustainable forest management through a balanced consideration of maintenance of the resource base, participation of interested parties, and production of goods and services. Accordingly, we continue to support FAO's forest resource assessment community forestry activities, and its work providing technical assistance to Members.

On the matter of the *ad hoc* Inter-Governmental Panel on Forests established by the CSD, the United States foresees an important role for FAO as the Panel performs items from its Programme of Work. For certain elements of the Programme of Work FAO has a comparative advantage in the subject matter; for others, other international organizations have competency. The United States has always understood the role of the Secretariat to be administrative rather than substantive and would encourage FAO to invest more resources in the substantive analysis which the Panel will perform than in the secretarial functions of the Secretariat. In any event, the United States regards the work of the Panel as highly important and hopes FAO will make resources available for the Forestry Department to participate.

The United States understands that some references in the summary Programme of Work and Budget to priorities were included before COFO and recognizes that this is why they seem somewhat out of step with the recommendations of COFO. We believe the COFO Report made progress in this area of prioritization, especially the specific areas of priority importance listed in paragraph 29.

On the matter of criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forests, we support the recommendations of COFO. We encourage FAO to act upon those recommendations but caution the Organization against moving beyond the direction of COFO.

The United States continues to encourage FAO to utilize the Regional Forestry Commissions more effectively. The meetings draw a more technical audience than is often the case for meetings in Rome, are of a more manageable size, and provide an opportunity to facilitate substantive technical dialogue.

We commend FAO on the efforts made over the past year to solicit broad input into the development of its forestry programmes including the meetings of independent forestry experts, of environmental NGOs, and of forestry groups. Open communication will strengthen FAO's programmes and relationships.

The United States has found the practice of utilizing a rapporteur to prepare the COFO Report to be quite efficient. We hope that similar steps to improve meeting efficiency can be undertaken in the future.

Andrew PEARSON (Australia): Australia worked closely with other nations at the CSD to agree on arrangements for the Inter-Governmental Panel on Forests and we are pleased with the outcome. Given the Panel's ambitious work programme, it will be vital that FAO respond positively and work constructively in collaboration with other concerned organizations to carry out this work. Australia supports the call by many other delegations for FAO to ensure that sufficient resources are available for it to meet its task manager role. Reflecting one area of work of the Panel, priority should be given to the development of national accounting systems that better reflect the full costs of forestry activities, as well as to work on increasing the value of forest products through improved management practices. FAO has also made useful contributions to international initiatives to develop guidelines, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, and it will need to continue involvement in these activities.

Finally, Australia welcomes the broadening of FAO's activities beyond South East Asia through its management role in the South Pacific Forestry Development Programme. This Programme seeks to enhance national capacities to effectively address forest issues in the South Pacific and we welcome the addition of these resources and expertise to the region.

Srta. Virginia PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela): Gracias señor Presidente. El encuentro de los Ministros encargados de actividades forestales con motivo del 12º período de sesiones del COFO, en marzo de 1995, fue muy oportuno y resultó de gran interés pues era la primera vez que la FAO organizaba una reunión a este nivel, dedicada únicamente a la silvicultura. La participación activa de los países puso de manifiesto la importancia que asigna la comunidad internacional a los bosques y a las iniciativas de la FAO en ese sector. El enorme interés y la preocupación política de los Gobiernos, aunados al deseo de responder a los desafíos de la CNUMAD, brindó una ocasión única para la preparación política y técnica de la reunión.

Mi Delegación desea recalcar la necesidad de fortalecer el Departamento de Montes y dar un mayor apoyo financiero al Programa Principal de Montes, teniendo en cuenta los compromisos ya existentes sobre la protección del medio ambiente y la ejecución de los planes de acción forestal nacionales.

Consideramos que la labor de la FAO debe centrarse en aquellas esferas en las cuales la Organización tiene ventajas comparativas. Por lo tanto, al determinar las prioridades a medio y a largo plazo será oportuno reservar una consideración especial a la función de la FAO como gerente de tareas técnicas en materia forestal; la elaboración y definición de criterios e indicadores para un manejo forestal sostenible de los bosques de todo tipo que considere los intereses de los países en desarrollo; la evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales, sus riquezas biológicas, y sus aspectos ambientales y sociales; la intensificación del apoyo a los países en desarrollo para la elaboración de políticas forestales, planes y programas; el fortalecimiento institucional en materia de investigación y la capacitación de recursos humanos en el área forestal; la necesidad de que la FAO impulse el crecimiento de la ayuda financiera a los países en desarrollo y la transferencia de tecnología segura; la elaboración de una estrategia y de un programa para el desarrollo sostenible de todos los tipos de bosques, con la participación de las partes involucradas; el estímulo de las actividades de reforestación y/o restauración de la cobertura forestal y que se realicen esfuerzos para identificar las causas de la deforestación y se desarrollen actividades concretas a fin de erradicarlas. La gestión en el análisis, discusión y definición de metodologías y procedimientos transparentes para la certificación de productos forestales maderables, teniendo en cuenta la preocupación de los países, para que dichos programas de certificación sean eficaces, no discriminatorios, y aplicables a todo tipo de bosques.

En relación al Plan de Acción Forestal dirigido a la creación de capacidad y planificación intersectorial para el uso de los recursos de la tierra y el mejoramiento de los productos forestales mediante prácticas mejoradas de ordenación y manejo, coincidimos en que es una de las tareas donde la FAO tiene ventajas comparativas y,

por lo tanto, los recursos y los esfuerzos de esa organización deberían centrarse en apoyar las iniciativas nacionales en esta materia.

Mi Gobierno insta a la FAO para que inicie lo antes posible la aplicación de las recomendaciones que le fueron hechas por el Comité de Montes, y en especial para que ponga en funcionamiento el panel intergubernamental sobre los bosques.

Mi Delegación, señor Presidente, por todo lo anterior, aprueba el informe.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): Firstly, allow me to congratulate and place on record our appreciation of the work of the Committee on Forestry. It has been excellent. We would also like to express our appreciation for the comprehensive document CL 108/8 from the Secretariat. Mr Chairman, the Indonesian Delegation would like to support FAO's idea in harmonizing the criteria and indicators of the sustainable global forestry management. With this purpose in mind we do hope that the final results of this harmonization will finish within the year 1997 based on the results of the 1st Session of the Panel of Experts which has already been held in February 1995.

With regard to the idea of replacing the Forestry Principles of the Summit with a Convention on Forestry, we would like to provide you with a few matters of consideration as follows: we believe many countries have not yet applied the results of the Forestry Principles of the Rio Summit. The Indonesian Delegation believes it is too early now to discuss the opportunities of changing the said Principles into a Convention on Forestry. In that case we must give opportunities to those countries to give them sufficient time to apply the Forestry Principles of the Summit.

With regard to the function of FAO as the Task Manager of Chapter 11 (combating deforestation), we would ask FAO to increase its efforts on cooperation among the various international organizations and institutions related to forestry, especially in providing the technical assistance to the various developing countries. We would also like to urge the various countries to encourage all interested parties to reach the level of ODA based on the 0.7 percent level of GNP based on the commitment of the Rio Summit.

Mr Chairman, we are happy that the Committee of Forestry noted the results of the International Consultation on Non-Wood Forest Products held in Jogjakarta, Indonesia in January 1995 as contained in paragraph 45 of its report. We would be happy if the recommendations made, including the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Non-Wood Forest Products development be considered by all parties concerned for possible implementation.

Finally, allow me to endorse the Report of the Committee on Forestry to the FAO Conference in October 1995.

Thanit YINGVANASIRI (Thailand): Mr Chairman, the document CL 108/8 which contains the report of the 12th Session of the Committee on Forestry is indeed a new format and worth reading. I am grateful to the Secretariat and urge the Secretariat to continue this format of the report in the future sessions.

My delegation wishes to offer a few comments. First, we agree with the establishment of an intergovernmental panel on forests under the aegis of the Commission of Sustainable Development and to determine its term of reference and modalities of its establishment. We also welcome the initiative to develop guidelines, criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management with a holistic approach. Secondly, we share the view that the resources allocated to the forestry activities in the 1996-97 biennium under FAO's Regular Budget should be increased. We foresee that this trend will continue to increase in the later biennium.

Mr Chairman, the paragraphs under II on pages iii and iv generally receive our support. These paragraphs have mentioned special priority, the continued priority and priority and we wonder how you would prioritize these priorities. In our view the NFAP certainly should receive the highest priority.

With regard to paragraph 38, we absolutely agree with the principle of enhancing decentralization of FAO activities as a means to provide greater regional support. However, we feel that the delegation of decision authority should also be decentralized.

Lastly, I refer to paragraph 45. We strongly encourage FAO to support the sound development of ecotourism for commercial and educational purposes. This new dimension of forestry development would raise the awareness of the public in conserving the environment.

Salah HAMDY (Tunisie): Ma délégation appuie le rapport du Comité des forêts et s'associe donc aux délégations qui l'ont précédée et qui ont apporté leur appui aux divers aspects de ce rapport.

Je voudrais, toutefois, faire un petit éclaircissement au sujet du groupe intergouvernemental sur les forêts, et plus exactement au sujet du Secrétariat de ce groupe.

Bien sûr le rapport et le Conseil reconnaissent le rôle de la FAO en tant que maître d'oeuvre en matière de gestion durable des forêts. Mais pour le Secrétariat de ce panel international sous l'égide de la CDD, les choses dans mon esprit ne sont pas claires. Est-ce qu'il s'agit d'un Secrétariat mixte? Est-ce qu'il y a un autre organisme des Nations Unies qui va assurer ce Secrétariat avec l'appui de la FAO? J'aimerais savoir comment le Secrétariat du groupe intergouvernemental sera organisé, comment il fonctionnera.

Srta. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina): La delegación de la República Argentina, señor Presidente, señala al igual que lo hicieron otras delegaciones, la importancia de asignar mayores recursos a las actividades de la ordenación sostenible de los bosques. Destacamos lo mencionado por nuestra delegación durante el último COFO, donde se resaltó la importancia del bosque como habitat humano y como fuente generadora de servicios, alimentos, turismo y todos los demás aspectos vinculados con la biodiversidad.

En este contexto solicitamos en el COFO la asistencia técnica de la FAO para los países de América Latina y del Caribe en el marco de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo para la formulación de proyectos que utilicen biomásas forestales en la fabricación de gasolinas ecológicas.

Destacamos la importancia que la República argentina le asigna a los productos forestales no madereros y recordamos en este contexto la asistencia que hemos solicitado de la Organización para la celebración de un seminario sobre productos forestales no madereros, a celebrarse en Argentina en septiembre del corriente año.

Le pedimos a la Secretaría, al igual que lo solicitó la delegación de Japón, se evalúe el impacto de la descentralización en estas actividades de especial importancia para la FAO.

Apoyamos el informe presentado y señalamos que nos referiremos a este tema nuevamente al considerar las cuestiones de presupuesto y la reestructuración de la Organización.

Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil): Mr Chairman, the Brazilian Delegation has participated very actively in the work of the Committee on Forestry. We are happy to see that the Report before us is very concise and yet very faithful to the discussions we had then.

We would like, however, as other delegations did, to express once again our opinion that FAO must continue to give first priority to its collaboration with the CSD on the question of management and sustainable development of forests.

The CSD and its intergovernment panel on forests are certainly going to play a central role as a focal point in relation to various ongoing initiatives on forestry including the harmonization of criteria and indicators and must receive full cooperation in order to present fruitful results.

We are confident that FAO will find sufficient means to fulfil its tasks in the forestry field and to give CSD the cooperation that body must have

EL PRESIDENTE: Con esto se concluye la lista de oradores ¿alguna otra delegación desea hacer uso de la palabra? Entonces le ruego al señor Harcharik que conteste a las preguntas o aclaraciones solicitadas.

David HARCHARIK (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. You have left me with a very difficult task. I am inclined to say that it is no wonder that we don't have enough financial resources. It is because this Council and our Member Governments expect an awful lot of a lot of us in forestry. You are demanding and requesting that we carry out a very substantial role, and let me say that I interpret that as meaning that you believe in what we are doing and that you support it and that you are encouraging us to go even further; so I would like to thank all Members of the Council. I think you have given us a very strong vote of confidence.

Chairman, we have taken very good notes. I will not try to respond to every one of the very many excellent suggestions and comments. However, let me try to collect my thoughts and address what I think are some of the either most important things that were said by the Council or at least the things that I think I heard most frequently.

First, regarding the business of priorities and comparative advantage, we have heard repeatedly that it is necessary for us to prioritize our work. Let me tell you that what I am trying to have us do.

First, I think it is important that we understand the concept of sustainable forest management. It is indeed the most important new forest concept that we have addressed in decades. It is a direct result of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the Earth Summit in Rio. The business of how we manage and protect our resources and also provide the goods and services that people need is at the heart of sustainable development.

In forestry we interpret that as meaning sustainable forest management. Sustainable forest management has three dimensions. It has the protection of the resource, the production of goods and services, commodities that people need, and, thirdly, the participation of people, communities, and the decision-making processes regarding forest management, and the distribution of the goods and services in an equitable way.

There is no other organization like FAO, and it is, therefore, very important for this Organization to maintain a certain level of capability in sustainable forest management, and that means maintaining some balance in the protection of the resource, the commodity production, and the people's participation - and, in my mind, that means a very solid foundation programme that we must have in this broad range of dimensions of sustainable forestry. So our first priority is to maintain some capability in these three dimensions of sustainable forest management; otherwise, we cannot deliver to the many countries that expect us.

Within this, Mr Chairman, we are very definitely trying to expand our work on forest resources assessment. This has been an important programme of FAO for a number of years, and it remains a high priority, and we would like to build on the programme that we now have in place. We are also trying to expand and build on the work that we do in statistical reporting, which is one of the most important normative functions that we have.

We are trying to collect and analyse statistical data on wood prices, the supply and demand of forest products, and to expand that to include non-wood forest products and to also utilize this information in an analytical way that allows us to predict impacts on the forest sector and to put in place programmes now that might avoid expected impacts that could come in the future.

Chairman, we would like to build on our work in community forestry also, again a programme that I believe FAO has largely pioneered, especially with the excellent financial support of some of the Member Governments here. We have heard a number of delegations comment on the need to expand our work in capacity building and provide technical assistance to developing countries and to continue the work in this line that deals with national forestry action programmes, and we would like for that to continue to be a mainstay and a priority of our work.

Chairman, we have also heard comments on the role of forestry in food security and food production; and, indeed, we have already done some work on this, and I'm reminded of an excellent publication that we have on this, which I think it might be worthwhile again to share with Members.

Food security is an important initiative of FAO, and we in the Forestry Department are doing what we can to make sure that we contribute to this very important overall initiative of the Organization. A number of you commented upon the need to build better collaboration and partnerships, and you know that I have spoken out repeatedly on this myself.

I can tell you that there are many good cooperative programmes in place already, and I see them daily coming across my desk in terms of publications, meetings and joint project work that we operate with other donors in developing countries. There are many examples of this. We are trying to publicize them more, and we are trying to build upon them, and to build upon them even especially more within the context of the UN System, and we do have dialogue in place with our partner organizations in the UN System, and I think you can expect us to do more and more on that.

The criterion indicators - yes, we convened a meeting here in February to try and advance the processes that were already in place at the initiative of other governments but also to extend this process to countries that were not now involved in the development of criterion indicators of sustainable forest management, and indeed we will continue this. We have excellent advice from you and from COFO to especially involve countries that do not now participate in a process to develop criterion indicators, and we have a meeting organized in Africa -I believe it is in October or November of this year - for this specific purpose, and we are trying to get support from within the UN System for this initiative.

Chairman, almost every delegation commented in one fashion or another about the intergovernmental panel on forests, and you have suggested very strongly that FAO support the work of the panel and that we contribute towards its success. I would like to ensure country delegations that we are in a very close dialogue with the United Nations Secretariat on this right now. We are very closely looking at exactly how we can participate. We have gone down our programme of work of the existing biennium and are trying to make available those products that we think we have just recently produced that can advance the work of the panel.

We are also looking at our programme of work for the next biennium to make sure that as much of it as possible can also support the work of the panel, and there are a number of things that we are planning to do that will contribute very directly to the panel, and let me just mention a couple of them as I look again at the terms of reference for the panel.

As regard sectorial and cross-sectorial linkages FAO has a capability and an ongoing programme to look at forest outlook studies and analysis of the forestry sector, and in particular how forestry links in with agriculture and other sectors. We will continue this work and make it available to the CSD and, perhaps, try to develop more of it in partnership with other organizations.

The forest resource assessment is one of the terms of reference of the intergovernmental panel, and I think, as I mentioned earlier, there is no organization that has done as much as FAO on this, and we will continue and expand, and we look forward to the good advice of the panel on this. The development of criteria and indicators is another element in the terms of reference of the intergovernmental panel, and again we feel that we have much to contribute to this process, and we are programming for this in our upcoming Programme of Work and Budget.

Many of the other things that the panel will do we will also be able to contribute towards, although perhaps in a less substantive way than the ones that I just mentioned. We are in dialogue with the UN Secretariat in New York as to how they plan to service the panel. Quite honestly, it is not yet known what type of Secretariat is needed in New York and what type of people may be needed there, but we are in discussion with the United Nations on this, and we will try to assist the UN and the intergovernmental panel in any way that we can to help make their work successful.

Chairman, may I respond more specifically to one comment from the delegation of Syria concerning the statistical data on forest resources?

Sir, we do have some information that is available, and it is very much current, even though it is not summarized in the COFO Report. I would be very happy to make that available to you, and you should be aware that it has been printed most recently in a report that the Director-General himself has asked us to produce every two years. It is The State of the World's Forests, and the first issue of that Report was released during the COFO meeting, and we are planning to do this, as I said, every two years, and it does have up-to-date statistical information on forest resources; so we will be happy to make that available to you, Sir.

Chairman, finally, I failed to mention in my opening remarks that the Rome Statement on Forestry, in its final version, has been printed and put in the boxes of all country delegations here, and if you did not pick that up, I would encourage you to look in your box here and to get a copy of that.

Chairman, with that, perhaps I should stop and again thank the delegations here. I think we have received some very excellent advice from you all, and we look forward again to building a better forestry programme to meet your needs.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Harcharik por sus amplios y exhaustivos comentarios que prácticamente han abarcado todos los temas. A riesgo de duplicar un poco lo que usted ha dicho, de cualquier forma me voy a permitir ofrecer un resumen de nuestros debates.

En primer lugar, mencionar que tras elogiar sus deliberaciones y recomendaciones así como el formato del Informe, el Consejo aprobó el informe del 12º período de sesiones del Comité de Montes. Se informó que ha habido un avance importante en el tratamiento de los temas forestales, se felicitó al Director General por la organización de la reunión ministerial de montes y se tomó nota, con agrado, de la disponibilidad de la Declaración Forestal de Roma. Se otorgó prioridad al papel de la FAO en la preparación de los programas de acción forestales nacionales y se insistió en su papel en la asistencia técnica que se espera a raíz de ello de parte de FAO. FAO, se reconoció, tiene un papel predominante de liderazgo que requiere de una colaboración y cooperación estrecha con otros organismos internacionales, entre ellos, el PNUMA, la OMT y el Banco Mundial. Se mencionó la contribución del desarrollo agroforestal al objetivo de la seguridad alimentaria, al desarrollo económico de manera sostenible y, también, a la mejoría de las condiciones de vida de grupos humanos que viven en esos sistemas. Se hizo referencia, también, a la importancia de generar una conciencia ecológica y en particular, al impulso al ecoturismo.

El Consejo advirtió que se deben hacer esfuerzos para que la fase de restructuración y descentralización de FAO concluya, se establezca, a fin de lograr los significativos avances y expectativas de este proceso, en particular en el tratamiento de los temas y acciones forestales. Al apoyarse ese proceso de descentralización, se pidió también contar con un análisis de su impacto en las tareas de FAO y la entrega de su programa de montes. En vista de las limitaciones financieras, FAO debería concentrarse en aquellas actividades que representaran ventajas comparativas entre las normativas que hicieron algunas delegaciones.

El Consejo tomó nota de los resultados de la tercera sesión de la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible, en particular se destaca la guía de seguimiento proporcionada por el Consejo en su sesión anterior, el apoyo a las propuestas de FAO como gerente de tareas y, la acción requerida por la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible con posibles implicaciones para el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de 1996-97.

El Consejo le asignó la máxima prioridad al apoyo técnico de FAO al PANEL intergubernamental de bosques y, acogió con beneplácito que FAO colaborara con el Departamento de Coordinación de Políticas y Desarrollo Sostenible, que proveería al apoyo de secretariado al PANEL.

Se advirtió también de la importancia de mantener un mecanismo de seguimiento a las acciones que de todo esto se derivaran.

Ajustes necesarios deberían hacerse al Programa de Labores que se presentará a la próxima Conferencia de la FAO para reflejar estas prioridades. La falta de recursos adicionales y nuevos para países en desarrollo y de economías en transición, continuaban siendo una preocupación que debía atenderse.

Se recomendó que FAO aplique medidas específicas de su informe para fortalecer y ampliar las actividades de las comisiones forestales regionales para incrementar la participación de países miembros y facilitar una mayor interacción entre las comisiones forestales regionales y un mayor número de actividades entre ellas.

También se reconoció las recomendaciones de acción por FAO surgidas de órganos intergubernamentales adicionales a los órganos rectores y que todo esto tenía implicaciones de carácter presupuestario que, repito de nuevo, se considerarían ulteriormente al revisar el PLP 1996/97.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, hubo también una mención a buscar que algunas acciones complementarias de parte de la Organización deberían ser planteadas ante el Foro del ECOSOC, con el propósito de ser promovidas también a ese nivel. Hubo otras múltiples sugerencias, no es el caso recordarlas aquí, se encuentran en el verbatim que estará disponible por todos, y con esto yo concluiría el resumen de nuestros debates y si no tienen ustedes ninguna otra observación, terminaría con este Tema 8 de nuestro Programa.

¿Hay alguna observación?

En ese caso cerramos este tema y estamos ahora hacia adelante de nuestra Agenda y yo les preguntaría, distinguidos delegados, si están ustedes en capacidad de permitirnos pasar a la revisión del Tema 15 de nuestra Agenda que es el Informe sobre la Evaluación del Programa 1994-95. ¿Hay alguna objeción para que así lo hagamos?

En ese caso voy a permitirme invitar a Doctor Bommer, Presidente del Comité del Programa, para que nos ayude en la introducción de este tema y agradecer al señor Harcharik por su presencia y comentarios. Muchas gracias.

PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

15. Programme Evaluation Report 1994-95

15. Rapport d'évaluation du programme 1994-95

15. Informe sobre la Evaluación del Programa de 1994-95

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, distinguidos delegados les agradezco que nos hayan permitido avanzar en nuestra Agenda y comenzar el tratamiento del Tema 15 que se refiere al Informe sobre la Evaluación del Programa 1994-95. Al respecto cuentan ustedes con el documento C 95/4 y también con las partes correspondientes de los informes del Comité del Programa.

Para presentar este tema le voy a dar primero la palabra al señor Wade y, posteriormente, al Presidente del Comité del Programa.

¿Es para un punto de orden?

Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Argentina.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Srta. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina): Perdón, señor Presidente, que intervenga un poco a destiempo, pero quería hacer una propuesta. Si nos hicieran oír, por ejemplo, la presentación del tema, pero los debates del mismo se dejarán para mañana; es una propuesta que yo hago en el entendido de que estamos

aquí desde bastante temprano, el temario ha sido amplio, hay mucha gente que consideraba que este tema se iba a tratar mañana, y las delegaciones son pequeñas y algunos tienen que volver a las embajadas a trabajar. Es una sugerencia, nos atenemos a lo que decida la mayoría.

EL PRESEDENTE: Muchas gracias. Yo entendía que ese es un problema que se podría suscitar, por ello les preguntaba si había alguna objeción. Podríamos trabajar así: se haría la presentación del tema y si una vez concluida la presentación del tema ustedes consideran que debíamos posponer el debate para después, así lo haremos.

T. WADE (Officer-in-Charge, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): In fact, Mr Chairman, I will be very brief because, rather than introduce the Programme Evaluation Report in any substantive way, I would like to concentrate on those aspects which may be of interest to the Council.

First of all, on the question of selection of topics, which is something that is raised on a number of occasions, we have in fact concentrated on the priority programmes. We have a very limited evaluation capacity in the Organization and we must therefore concentrate our efforts on those programmes which are the most important for the Organization. You can see that the list includes Plant Genetic Resources, Food Information, the Early Warning System, World Food Security, and all the EMPRES related programmes on transboundary pests and diseases. In the important area of Forestry, we covered community forestry development and we looked at project operations, particularly bearing in mind the restructuring exercise and the combination of the existing Services and Divisions into a single organizational unit.

I should add that the Director-General in his introduction specifically proposes to consult the Programme Committee on the topics to be covered as well as the manner of their presentation for all future Programme Evaluation reports and I think this is yet another example of the Director-General's willingness to involve Member Nations in this process.

At the last Conference, while welcoming the Programme Evaluation Report, suggestions were made for improvements, of course, and I think these were the clearer identification of planned results and outputs, which is something not so much for the Programme Evaluation Report itself but more for the planning documents which lead to the Programme Evaluation Report, in particular the Programme of Work and Budget. Secondly, it sought a comparative analysis of actual implementation achievements and results versus the planned targets and milestones; again this depends on the programme document containing the planned milestones in the first place. Thirdly, it sought an analysis of the reasons for the gaps between plans and what is actually implemented. Fourthly, it sought a comparison of planned and actual costs. Finally, on a separate subject, it sought a more systematic assessment of programme impact and sustainability of achievements particularly in the area of the Field Programme.

We have made efforts towards meeting these requests but I do need to draw your attention to the timing. Items 1, 2 and 3 all depended on the planning document containing the sort of information against which you could make these comparisons. As the Conference, when it made its decision on the Report and gave us these recommendations, had already approved the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 in its current form, you can see that the scope for improvement on items 1, 2 and 3 is very limited. It will only be during 1996-97, when we have the new Programme of Work and Budget document which specifically aims to better define outputs, that we will be able to perform the sort of comparisons that you sought.

I would again like to draw your attention to the Director-General's introduction in this respect. He makes the commitment to improve programme formulation and work planning, including presentation in the PWB, so that we can have a better articulated basis for Programme Evaluation. He does, however, put in the *caveat* that there are serious methodological and resource problems, and I would like to advise the Council that we are trying to address these. We have already completed a substantial review of the US experience so far as the Government Programme and Results Act 1993 is concerned, which provides the basic framework for federal agencies to measure programme towards the accomplishment of their public service programmes. We are doing our best to assist the United States Department of State to achieve one of its own performance measurement indicators, which is that it wants to implement similar assessment programmes in UN Agencies. We are trying to meet that requirement.

The same study examined the work being done by OECD, where considerable effort has been put into this issue over a longer time frame. The OECD experience is generally that performance indicators work well for public service programmes where activities and outputs are tangible. The value of such indicators, however, is less tangible in areas such as policy advice, where the number of missions or policy advisory reports is, frankly, a rather irrelevant statistic, or in the role of international fora, where the results depend on so many factors beyond the control of the Organization.

The measurement of success or failure is not necessarily a measurement of the Organization's capacity. I think that the point which the Director-General makes is very important. We should not rush blindly into costly exercises which would increase the bureaucracy within the Organization and which could absorb valuable technical capacity. On the other hand, we can see that there is room for improvement and improve we shall.

The Programme Committee made several other valuable points in paragraphs 2.6 to 2.28 of the Council document CL 108/14 and I imagine that Dr Bommer will cover this. Finally, Mr Chairman, I and my colleague, Mr Kato, who is the Chief of the Evaluation Service, are available to respond to any questions you may raise.

D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee): I thank you for this very comprehensive introduction by Mr Wade. I almost do not need to say anything but I certainly will.

You might recall that the Programme Committee has considered this Report in our 20th Session in April and the various reactions to this Report are contained in document CL 108/14 paragraphs 2.6 to 2.28. I certainly do not want to give you all the details, reactions or comments in the Report. I can refer to those if you have questions but, first of all, I would like to say that we have been again very impressed by the tremendous work that went into this Evaluation Report and the material collected.

Nevertheless, having Mr Wade already referred to some uneasiness we had, particularly the recommendations we made when we considered the first evaluation report two years ago. It was not possibly taken into consideration, as Mr Wade explained and we will have only the basis to do this with a better planning document which we hope to have in the final Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97. To accommodate time we have programmed an Evaluation Report informative touching topics of generally relevant priorities for the ongoing restructuring process. Again, something which Mr Wade has referred to. However, the Report tended to be more descriptive than analytical. It should have addressed more systematically the issues of inputs, outputs, design and impact, the complementarity between the Regular Programme and Field Programme as well as the particular role of FAO and the other international organizations and agencies. The Committee therefore urged to improve the analytical content in future reports which might also change the format of presentations. We might have a longer accompanying annexe and concluding analytical summary in the beginning.

The Committee also addresses the problems of the evaluation reported in management and I bring this in this light we have to listen to what the Director-General and Mr Wade have said. There are certainly always considerable resources involved if we want to have serious analytical work. At the same time, if I use this as a management tool in the Organization then I think that the resources can be very well spent. I really urge that the future Report should indicate the reaction of Programme Managers on the findings of this Report, including follow-up actions. A monetary mechanism should be established within the Organization to ensure more systematic feedback from those reviews and evaluations. Proposals for action contained in this and future reports should also be subject for systematical use by the Programme Committee.

Finally, the Committee welcomes the intention of the Director-General to seek early consultation with the Committee, certainly with the Council Members for selecting topics, that shall be covered in future editions of the Report and the details within the five chapters we have seen in the Report about our comments and where we show and underline something or make suggestions or recommendations for input.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Bommer. Creo que no es necesario que yo abunde en la introducción de este tema. Mi propuesta a ustedes es que, si no tienen ninguna objeción, podemos empezar

con la lista de oradores, dejarla abierta y terminarla mañana. Podríamos comenzar con un debate hasta el punto en que las delegaciones así lo estimen. En el momento en que esta lista de oradores termine, terminaríamos nuestra sesión y continuaríamos mañana. ¿Hay alguna delegación que se oponga a que abramos la lista de oradores y empiece el debate? Bien, tiene la palabra la delegación de los EE.UU.

Ms Lynnett M. WAGNER (United States of America): This Programme Evaluation Report is an improvement over its predecessor. However, it is now more critical than ever that FAO give Member States the feedback they need to set clearer priorities and identify better the areas where FAO has the greatest comparative advantage relative to other UN Agencies, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations. We fully agree with the Programme Committee that further major improvements are needed. This is especially so given the severe funding constraints now facing FAO and the UN System in general.

Many of the activities reviewed in this Report represent real gains in efficiency for the international community. FAO's expertise and world-wide coverage obviated the need for countries to undertake more expensive and potentially less efficient country-by-country programmes of their own.

The document continually raises the theme of the lack of funding, due to regular resource constraints and sometimes lack of donor interest in providing extra-budgetary funds for certain activities. Priorities at the programme level need to be more clearly articulated, both by FAO itself and by its Member States and principal donor partners. It is not useful for FAO to spread itself too thinly and then issue constant appeals for additional funds.

There continue to be needs for information on programmes that are not being met, most notably, more adequate data on achievement of targets and actual costs of projects in the field and the relative cost-effectiveness of different types of field activities. The evaluations still tend to be more descriptive than analytical but we note some improvements in this regard. We also feel strongly that when recommendations are made in the Programme Evaluation Report, the Secretariat should systematically report back on follow-up to the appropriate technical committees.

Mr Chairman, the United States has more detailed comments on each of the major programmes covered in the Programme Evaluation Report which we will submit for the record. We would like to say, however, that we remain strongly supportive of all four of these activities. Our technical experts have offered highly favourable comments on FAO's successful work in these areas. We believe they merit high priority and continued, adequate funding within the Regular Programme Budget.

Plant Genetic Resources

The work begun in 1985 under the guidance of FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has enabled the organization to become a focal point on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission will soon resume deliberations on several delicate issues relating to access to genetic material, farmers' and breeders' rights, in an effort to renegotiate FAO's International Undertaking. It is encouraging to see the gradual increase in FAO funds devoted to these types of activities, though the demand for them is growing at a greater rate. Thus it is somewhat questionable to assert that FAO's programmes on genetic resources have expanded sufficiently to accommodate UNCED requirements.

Future plans should, as the document suggests, incorporate assessments of potential funding sources. Funding may very well be a problem for FAO's well designed and very pertinent global strategy on animal genetic resources. Overreliance on extrabudgetary funding may eventually impair delivery of the Regular Programme Component. The United States remains a strong supporter.

Food Information and Early Warning System and World Food Security

- The Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) is one of FAO's most valuable activities. If it is underfunded in the regular programme, then other, less central activities should be dropped and resources redirected toward GIEWS.

- Cooperation between GIEWS and US AID's Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) has strengthened considerably in recent years. The two programs are both making an effort to work collaboratively.
 - Over the past few months, GIEWS and FEWS have been exploring ways to accelerate the exchange of early warning software and databases. Both agencies are developing standardized computer-assisted tools to improve the quality of food security analysis.
 - FAO has agreed to make GIEWS Workstation software available to FEWS analysts after the Workstation software is finalized.
 - FEWS has developed database manager software for agricultural statistics and rainfall analysis which has been provided by FAO analysts.
 - FAO and FEWS have compiled complete lists of their early warning databases and have set a specific schedule for exchanging these materials.
- The United States is pleased by the cooperative arrangements between GIEWS and FEWS that will promote effortless data sharing and will help them to build on each other's accomplishments.

Community Forestry Development

- US development professionals are enthusiastic users of the resources published by the Forest, Trees and People Programme.
- Considering the modest amount of resources invested in it, the FTTP Network is very effective.
- Designing genuinely participatory community forestry projects is a difficult task, and the risk of failure is considerable. There is also an almost inevitable temptation to overload projects with multiple objectives and activities, a problem common to institutions that work in poor rural communities.
- Nonetheless, FAO is to be commended for persevering in increasing the quality of participation in its community forestry projects, and, as the document indicates, making a genuine effort to profit from lessons learned.

FAO Activities for Control of Transboundary Plant Pests and Animal Diseases

- The New World Screwworm eradication campaign was one of FAO's finest hours and the United States was pleased to assist in this worthwhile effort. Otherwise hard-headed development technicians have described it as "miraculous". It achieved eradication under budget and in less time than was anticipated.
- The quality of FAO's contribution to desert locust activities has increased and the sense of tripartite purpose among donors, affected countries and FAO has become stronger.
- In particular, the EMPRES programme promises to be a step forward in improving the way the international community responds to transboundary pests.
 - FAO has listened to members' concerns about the program and has responded constructively.
 - We especially look forward to the review of the economics of locust control and alternative control strategies as mentioned in paragraph 406 d) ii).

EL PRESEDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguida delegada de los Estados Unidos de América. El Consejo ha tomado nota de que enviará por escrito comentarios específicos respecto de cada uno de los capítulos de este informe.

K. SHIMIZU (Japan): My delegation highly commends the efforts of the Secretariat who produced this Evaluation Report as it is useful in guiding input for member countries to deepen the understanding of the Organization. My delegation hopes that this evaluation be conducted in an objective manner and continued.

Mr Chairman, Japan endorses most of the recommendations contained in the Report in general but saying that Japan wishes the Secretariat to include its follow-up study and findings about the new mechanism of the Technical Cooperation Office on such in the next Report.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, chapter 4, the Review of Project Operations, in particular, is a very useful input for Japan to understand the synergy between the project operations and normative activities. However, the reform at field levels are closely related to the reform of the Headquarters and the decentralization. As a result of the reform, field activities should be operated more effectively and efficiently based on the findings contained in paragraph 297 in particular.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, as for further improvement of the Report such as its format, my delegation supports the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2.7 to 2.8 of the Report of the Programme Committee CL 108/4. It also agrees to include further activities of the Uruguay Round in the next Evaluation Report.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): The Indonesian Delegation would like to thank and appreciate the Director-General, Dr Diouf, for his excellent work in executing his task as the new Director-General and in implementing the FAO Programme of Work in 1994/95. With emphasis on budget limitations, the Director General has been able to reach full success in his managerial action and also in the promotion of initiatives of infrastructure decisions; in the adjustment of policy to organize and develop a decentralization system; and in the definition of the poverty area which will be fixed in the next FAO Programme of Work.

Mr Chairman, we would like to endorse the clear and comprehensive programme of the Evaluation Report 1994/95 as contained in the documents C 95/4 and CL 108/14.

Mrs Maria KADLECIKOVA (Slovakia): I want to present on behalf of the Slovak Republic its intervention. Firstly, I would like to express appreciation for the comprehensively prepared document for discussion. The Slovak Republic which became a new member of the Organization at the 27th FAO Conference in 1993 appreciates programme activities as well as initiatives connected with gradual development of cooperation between the Slovak Republic and FAO and has provided assistance in this field. We take gradual development of the programmes for Central and Eastern Europe including Slovakia as an assistance in the area of agriculture reforms and restructuring food processing industry and forestry to the governmental bodies and to the associated institutions. In particular, we evaluate chapter 3 as a very good one as well as the sub-programmes orientated to forestry.

Through their involvement in project elaboration in Slovakia, they assist in conserving forestry genetic resources as a basis for the development of this sector in connection with the implementation of the conclusions of Agenda 21. Mr Chairman, the implementation of the programme's technical assistance and the connection with FAO will also be a good basis for the FAO programme in the forthcoming biennium. However, it should be remembered that in order to pursue the highest priorities of countries in transition, extra-budgetary resources must be found. We appreciate the fact that FAO activities mentioned in chapter 5 are seeking recommendations and solutions for the critical problems of animal disease and the control of pesticides in plant production. We agree with the necessity to aim to find solutions to specific problems in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which are in transition, leading to harmonization of legislation from a European and also a worldwide point of view. The programmes directed to world food security, the effort in joint international programmes, the concrete technical assistance to governments and the efforts to solve the problems of sustainable agriculture all confirm the specificity and multilateral aspects of the Organization.

Finally, it is necessary to express our gratitude to FAO for its efforts in the finalization and implementation of the two-year programmes. We believe in the continuous development of this positive trend in programmes which consider the need to solve food problems in Member Nations.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): As a member of the Programme Committee, Australia has already had an opportunity to comment on the Programme Evaluation Report and our views are reflected in the Committee's report. However, there are a couple of points we wish to reiterate. We applaud the intention expressed by the Director-General in the introduction on page v to pursue all appropriate measures to strengthen further the cost-effectiveness of our evaluation system and the intention to improve the analytical content of the Programme Evaluation Report, including the assessment of cost-effectiveness, impact on sustainability and programme results.

We are pleased to note in the summary introduction in paragraph 2 that the Fisheries Department is pursuing the possibility of undertaking during the 1996-97 biennium an in-depth study of the small-scale fisheries development programme, as recommended in Chapter 3 of the last Report. This will be welcome news to those small island member countries of the South West Pacific Region, who have a strong interest in this programme because of the importance of fisheries to their economies.

We note with approval the priorities of sub-programme 2.1.8.4 outlined at paragraph 99 and that here and in other areas the enlarged concept of food security is recognized. We are pleased to see that it goes well beyond food production only and includes stability and access to available supplies and a recognition of important factors such as trade links.

We endorse the view at paragraph 100 that the activities under the Special Action Programme on Nutrition and Food Quality, which include the development of national food and nutrition information systems, are seen as being of direct relevance to sub-programme 2.1.8.4.

We agree with the support, referred to under Disaster Preparedness and Stock Management at paragraph 129, to food marketing institutions through direct assistance to marketing boards in order to strengthen their management capacity and to enable them to function more efficiently.

Paragraph 140 under Food Security and Food Aid Policy refers to the Aggregated Household Food Security Index. Australia supported the use of this Index as an indicator to be used by the World Food Programme when identifying low-income food deficit countries when considering priorities for allocation of food aid assistance.

Australia finds that GIEWS Early Warning and Emergency Reports most useful and has been able to respond to urgent appeals on a number of occasions as a result of that information.

The suggestion at paragraph 163 concerning the development of indicators for the three areas of availability, stability and access seems to be a sound one, as is the suggested development of methods and criteria to allow for the prioritization of actions in relation to food security objectives, evaluation mechanisms for consideration of alternative action programmes, and the analysis of the costs and effects on national programmes being incorporated into the follow-up.

Reference is made in the Report to the success of the New World Screwworm Fly Campaign in North Africa. Australia gave its support to this campaign and contributed financially. We were extremely pleased with its successful outcome, and FAO's efforts in bringing this about. It will be noted from the April Programme Committee's report on this evaluation report that the Committee suggested that lessons learned from the successful experience of the New World Screwworm campaign should be fully taken into account in formulating approaches under EMPRES. Some members also suggested that other diseases, such as Old World Screwworm and foot-and-mouth disease, could also be considered under the special programme. Australia was among those countries making that suggestion and we would wish this Council also to address it.

Much research and experience has been gained and great progress made with New World Screwworm but little has been done to address the problem of the Old World Screwworm Fly, which is a major problem in developing countries in South and South East Asia, the Near East and much of Africa, which are trying to expand large-scale animal production. Old World Screwworm is a different genus and species from New World Screwworm and, although the behaviour and biology of both species is similar, it cannot be assumed that New World Screwworm methods will be equally successful as Old World Screwworm methods. Australia is developing a collaborative Old World Screwworm project in Malaysia to address some aspects of

Old World Screwworm and the application of the sterile insect techniques to Old World Screwworm. To us this is the only known Old World Screwworm project in the world; obviously more needs to be done. The collaborative project I refer to is limited, costing about US\$5.4 million over three years, and will not be able to address several new approaches recently developed from the FAO New World Screwworm Libyan programme or the Mexico-US programme.

We were very interested in the chapter on Community Forestry Development. The participatory, community-based approach being promoted by FAO in forestry development, through such programmes as the Forests, Trees and People Programme and Community Forestry Programme is to be commended. The benefits of this approach can be seen in the Australian experience through the success of our Land Care and Farm Forestry Programme.

Under Agenda Item 6 Australia has already expressed its views on the matters of substance on plant and animal genetic resources covered by this report. We support the comments made by the Programme Committee on the evaluation, and in particular the need to ensure that the strategy on animal genetic resources is matched with the resources available, and that this will require more work on a costed action plan and identifying the roles of other agencies in helping to deliver the outcomes sought by this strategy.

With respect to working with other agencies, we are concerned about the tone of paragraph 77 of the Programme Evaluation Report, which seems to suggest that the Convention on Biodiversity is a vehicle for environment ministries and the FAO undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources is a vehicle for the agriculture ministries. In our view, this attitude will lead to the development of ineffective programmes and duplication of effort because it does not encourage the active collaboration needed.

Alan AMEY (Canada): Le Canada est heureux d'examiner le Rapport d'évaluation pour 1994-1995. Le rapport forme une partie essentielle des documents de planification, qui comprennent le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, le rapport de mise en oeuvre et le plan à moyen terme. En particulier, nous voyons d'un bon oeil les assurances données par le Directeur général, dans l'introduction, quant à l'importance de la fonction d'évaluation, ainsi que sa détermination à rendre la FAO plus efficace sur le plan des coûts avec des programmes plus durables. Il faut du courage pour critiquer ses propres programmes, et la contribution de la sous-section de l'évaluation mérite d'être signalée.

Avant d'aborder l'étude de cas particuliers, j'aimerais présenter quelques observations générales.

Comme nous l'avons mentionné à la réunion du Comité de l'agriculture, nous trouvons quelque peu inquiétante la tendance à la baisse du nombre d'évaluation et le nombre croissant de projets mal conçus. J'espère que ces tendances s'inverseront un peu.

Sur la question de la conservation et de la gestion des ressources génétiques animales et végétales, rappelons qu'elles représentent depuis longtemps un domaine clé du programme agricole et que l'on s'y est attaqué bien avant qu'Action 21 ne lui donne une impulsion nouvelle. Cette section contient beaucoup d'informations que l'on avait demandées depuis longtemps. Toutefois, ce qui frappe le lecteur, c'est qu'un programme très ambitieux ait été confié à un effectif des plus restreints. Ce point se trouve renforcé au paragraphe 69. Comme cela est mentionné au paragraphe 15, il est essentiel que le travail de la commission soit axé sur les résultats spécifiques et quantifiables qui permettront de l'évaluer au bout de deux ans.

Sur la question de l'élargissement du mandat du CPGR dans le paragraphe 72, la décision a été prise récemment et je comprends mal la remarque selon laquelle cette décision aurait été préférable si elle avait été prise auparavant.

Au sujet de l'information sur les aliments, du système d'alerte rapide et de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, soulignons qu'il s'agit, ici encore, d'un domaine clé qui risque fort d'influer sur le nouveau Programme spécial du Directeur général relatif à la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier. Le système d'information mondiale et d'alerte rapide représente un service clé qui est offert à bon nombre de donneurs bilatéraux et multilatéraux et qui a maintes fois fait ses preuves.

De même, le travail du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale est généralement de bonne qualité. Toutefois, nous avons un peu de mal à accepter la succession de programmes d'actions spéciaux mis sur pied dans divers pays pour s'attaquer au problème de la sécurité alimentaire. En fait, un pays figure sur plus d'une liste. Pourquoi le premier plan n'a-t-il pas porté de fruit dans ce pays et pourquoi faut-il organiser une seconde mission?

La question qu'il faut se poser est la suivante: "Est-ce que la faim a diminué dans les pays où un plan a été mis en oeuvre?". Si l'on met de côté des situations d'urgence qui ressortissent à l'aide alimentaire, est-ce que ces programmes ont réussi à cibler les populations touchées et ont-ils mis en place des moyens économiques pour les rejoindre?

Ces questions ont une forte incidence sur l'approche actuelle puisque la FAO doit tirer le meilleur profit possible de ses avantages comparatifs et éviter de susciter des attentes qui ne pourront être satisfaites par des projets et des programmes pratiques. Comme il s'agit là d'une question importante, nous voulons l'assurance que de tels programmes sont efficaces avant d'y investir davantage.

J'aimerais poser une question supplémentaire portant sur le rôle des autres organismes. Aux paragraphes 154 et 157, il est fait mention respectivement de l'Agence des Etats-Unis pour le Développement international et du PAM. J'aimerais avoir l'assurance qu'il n'y a pas de chevauchement ni de double emploi dans le contrôle et l'évaluation des besoins d'aide alimentaire faits par la FAO et par ces deux organisations.

Nous sommes particulièrement d'accord avec le chapitre sur l'examen des opérations des projets, car beaucoup de ressources vont à l'exécution des projets sur le terrain. Nous pouvons souscrire aux recommandations voulant qu'il soit urgent de rationaliser les procédures administratives. Quand un programme a été conçu il y a plus de 20 ans, beaucoup d'innovations doivent être prises en compte dans sa conception et son mode d'exécution. Le personnel sur le terrain devrait se préoccuper davantage de l'exécution du programme et du contrôle des résultats que des procédures administratives. Au moment d'établir des nouvelles procédures, on espère que les meilleurs aspects des entités agriculture, pêche et forêts seront retenus.

Un aspect qui semble avoir peu retenu l'attention dans ce chapitre est le mécanisme d'intégration des résultats des évaluations de programmes dans les projets et programmes futurs. Il ne semble pas y avoir de comités ou de bases de données prévus pour faire en sorte que l'on tienne compte des leçons du passé dans la conception des futurs projets. Des organismes bilatéraux et les autres organismes multilatéraux recourent couramment à de tels comités et bases de données, et il serait avantageux de les ajouter aux programmes extérieurs de la FAO.

A notre avis, la foresterie communautaire représente un des champs d'action prioritaires de la FAO. Tenant compte de la croissance soutenue et de l'augmentation des responsabilités du secteur de la foresterie communautaire, nous sentons que des ressources accrues devraient lui être attribuées par l'entremise, notamment, d'une augmentation du nombre de positions professionnelles financées à partir du Programme régulier.

Nous prenons acte avec intérêt de l'analyse de la FAO qui suggère la création d'un mécanisme de surveillance de ces programmes, mécanismes qui seraient dotés d'une grille d'analyse commune de façon à faciliter une meilleure étude de la pertinence, de l'impact et de la durabilité de ces projets. Prenant en considération l'importance accrue de la foresterie communautaire au sein de la FAO, nous pensons donc que l'Organisation devrait mettre en oeuvre une telle structure d'évaluation, avec indicateurs et mécanismes de surveillance.

Au chapitre des activités de la FAO visant à prévenir la propagation internationale des ennemis des plantes et des animaux, nous sommes heureux de constater l'attention accrue accordée à ce domaine vital et l'utilisation plus répandue d'agents de biolutte. L'évaluation des risques posés par les ravageurs et l'établissement de normes relatives aux zones exemptes de ravageurs sont les domaines les plus importants où il faudra travailler à l'avenir.

En résumé le travail d'évaluation effectué jusqu'ici est valable. Toutefois, il faudrait être plus spécifique à l'avenir quant aux objectifs, aux intrants, aux coûts et aux extrants. Enfin, des mécanismes devraient être mis sur pied pour intégrer les leçons du passé dans les nouveaux projets.

José ROBLES AGUELAR (México): Mi delegación, señor Presidente, desea hacer algunas puntuaciones en relación al informe sobre la Evaluación del Programa 1994-95. En concreto sobre el Capítulo 5, párrafo 32.

Nosotros consideramos que la reglamentación de cuarentena no debe ser obstáculo para el comercio. Sobre este punto también queremos resaltar, que conforme a lo estipulado por el documento, se puede apreciar una disminución en cuanto a la cuantía de los recursos asignados al sector pecuario; por lo que estimamos conveniente, en relación con el cuadro 5.1, su revisión y que se eleven las fuentes financieras para el área de salud animal.

De igual manera, queremos resaltar el hecho de que las labores llevadas a cabo en la campaña de erradicación del gusano barrenador en África del norte, puede servir como un ejemplo de lo que se puede efectuar con base a la coordinación internacional cuando se presentan alternativas técnicas y económicas viables y que puedan ser aplicadas en el caso de las actividades para el control y erradicación de la fiebre aftosa y de la peste bovina.

En relación con el subprograma 2.1.3.3 referente a la conservación y ordenación de los recursos zoogenéticos, con acciones tendientes a la utilización racional de estos recursos para la población mundial, consideramos que es importante reforzar las acciones que se realizan en los países en desarrollo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto si algún delegado desea hacer uso de la palabra. En caso contrario levantaría la sesión y proseguiríamos el día de mañana.

David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom): I think it is important that we treat this subject of evaluation very seriously indeed. In-depth evaluation is essential to any organization and to the governing body of any organization. I emphasize in-depth evaluation.

There is a second point which is of cardinal importance and that is that evaluations are used and here I would echo very much and fully endorse the point made by my Canadian colleague. An organization and its governance must learn lessons. It must note its successes and it must learn from its failures. It is not a question of paying lip service to evaluation. In too many organizations this happens; we all know it. Evaluations are produced: people say they are treating them seriously but the lessons are not subsequently incorporated in later actions. This is of fundamental importance to any organization in improving its performance. I think that is worth underlining.

I think it is also worth underlining very much the point that was made by the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the point in the Report about inputs and outputs. We recognize that this was not possible for evaluations which had commenced before the recommendation on this point was made by the Conference but it is of fundamental importance for the future. It is not a question simply, I suggest, of input and outputs. It goes wider than that. Essentially it is a question of constraints. It is a question of looking at the constraints addressed by an activity and looking at whether those constraints have been overcome.

Those constraints in the first place should be important constraints. There is little point in a project activity addressing minor constraints. Resources are tight. We all know that. Therefore, finances should be allocated in areas of key importance addressing critical constraints. We then need to see the extent to which those critical constraints have been overcome.

We therefore fully endorse the points that have been made by the Programme Committee in their Report. I will not, Chairman, go into the details of the evaluations in the Report before us. They are indeed important details. I will use them, my delegation will use them, as we should, as governance when we come to look at forward programme activities.

We trust that the Organization itself will also be using these findings and will find a mechanism to ensure all those in the Organization are compelled - and I stress compelled - to use the findings of these evaluations and all future evaluations.

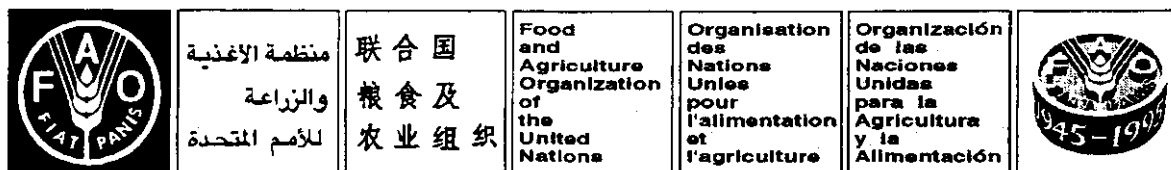
EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Ofrezco ahora la palabra a cualquier delegación que desee hacerlo esta tarde; si no hay ninguna, y a petición de algunos de ustedes, levantaría esta sesión y continuaríamos el día de mañana para finalizar este tema y, con el propósito de permitir a los especialistas de sus delegaciones que en la misma estén presentes. Se levanta la sesión del Consejo.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 horas.

8 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session · Cent huitième session · 108° período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENTERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

8 June 1995

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días distinguidos delegados, observadores, señoras y señores; se abre la séptima Sesión plenaria de nuestro Consejo. Tengo algunos anuncios que hacer.

En primer lugar, en el Orden del Día encontrarán ustedes, en la parte de atrás, la referencia a la lista de países que se han inscrito en el Grupo Oficioso de Trabajo sobre el Proyecto de Declaración sobre la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Como ustedes recordarán, habíamos propuesto que la lista se cerrara el día de ayer, al mediodía, sin embargo, otros países se han inscrito desde entonces. Les suplico a todos aquellos países que deseen participar en dicho grupo, que se lo anuncien a la mayor brevedad posible al Secretario General del Consejo. La lista la cerraremos hoy a mediodía.

En segundo lugar, como ustedes pueden ver, hemos hecho algunos progresos importantes en el tratamiento de nuestro temario; tengo indicaciones de que es posible que el Tema 15, 17 y 18, los podamos cubrir con cierta rapidez. Les subrayo que yo no quiero apresurarlos, no quiero quitarles tiempo para meditar respecto de lo que van a decir sobre estos temas, pero en caso, y solamente en caso, y para prepararles a ustedes de que terminemos en tiempo los Temas 17 y 18, les propongo que adelantemos el tratamiento del Tema 12, que es para información, para esta tarde y, luego, si hay suficiente tiempo para discusión, también del Tema 14.

Ustedes recordarán que el Tema 12 es para información, y se refiere a la colaboración dentro de Naciones Unidas y también con otras Organizaciones, incluyendo el resultado de la Tercera Sesión de la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible. El Tema 14 se refiere al Informe de avance del Director General en la implantación de las decisiones del 106º período de sesiones del Consejo. Esta es mi propuesta para que ustedes se preparen en caso de que estemos a tiempo; pero ustedes, claro, tendrán inmediatamente la pregunta de por qué no empezamos el Tema 16 hoy en la tarde y la respuesta es la siguiente. Ustedes, seguramente querrán que el señor Director General esté con nosotros en la discusión de este tema, y es también la voluntad y la decisión del Director General encontrarse aquí cuando lo debatamos. Ustedes también saben que él tiene compromisos importantes esta tarde, a uno de los cuales me referiré inmediatamente, y por ello no podría estar con nosotros en la sesión de la tarde.

En consecuencia, paso ahora al tercer punto, y es recordarles a los miembros de la OCDE que va a celebrarse esta tarde una reunión de donantes en la Sala de Alemania, a las dos y media, sobre el Programa Especial de Producción Agrícola en apoyo de la seguridad alimentaria en países con bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos.

Espero que hayan tomado nota de estos tres puntos. Recordarán ustedes también que en el tratamiento del Tema 15 de nuestra agenda se había ofrecido ayer la palabra a varios oradores; la lista de oradores que yo había anotado la concluimos ayer. Algunas delegaciones nos habían pedido esperar a que miembros de su delegación que se encargaban del tratamiento de ese tema estuvieran presentes, y por eso dejamos la lista de oradores abierta. Pregunto, por tanto, a los distinguidos miembros del Consejo, si hay alguna otra delegación que desee hacer uso de la palabra respecto del Tema 15, Informe de Evaluación del Programa 1994-95. No quiero apresurarles, porque alguien me advirtió hoy en la mañana que quizás estaba yo incitándoles a apresurar el paso y a no tomarse tiempo para meditar; yo les doy a ustedes todo el tiempo para que lo hagan. ¿Hay alguna otra delegación que desee inscribirse? Bien, en este caso comenzamos con la distinguida delegación de Alemania.

PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

15. Programme Evaluation Report 1994-95 (continued)

15. Rapport d'évaluation du programme 1994-95 (suite)

15. Informe sobre la Evaluación del Programa de 1994-95 (continuación)

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany): Let me first express my satisfaction in seeing you chairing our important Council meeting. At the same time I would like to thank you for the introduction to this Agenda item given to us yesterday by the Officers-in-Charge. In document C 95/4 the Secretariat has submitted to the Council a comprehensive and detailed account of the priority activities under the Regular and Field Programmes. My delegation would like to commend this effort as it allows a good survey of a large section of FAO's work and future action. However, as the Programme Committee has pointed out, and its Chairman, Professor Bommer, also said yesterday, my delegation would have preferred a more analytical report with a more concrete evaluation of cost effectiveness, sustainability of results and conclusions for the future. In the view of my delegation, these aspects deserve more attention as our Organization is increasingly compelled to perform its work under the pressure of financial and staff constraints. In such an analytical approach, it would have been appropriate also to make reference to previous decisions and actions by FAO and other international fora so as to demonstrate the relevance and future impact of the results described.

I have a few comments on some of the Sub-programmes covered by the Report. Sub-programme 2.1.2.1 on plant genetic resources is necessarily closely linked to the Programme and the Fourth International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. This includes, as a major concern for follow-up activities, the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. My delegation asks the Secretariat to use all the expertise available to make this vital programme a success. This applies to the timely presentation and the quality of the main output expected, the State of the World Report and the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources, and a realistic approach towards the implementation of the latter. The consultation and negotiations on the International Undertaking should be intensified and proceed in close cooperation with the respective partners to complete its revision and adaptation to the Convention on Biological Diversity before the Fourth International Technical Conference is held in Germany in June next year. This calls for the Conference Secretariat, other FAO bodies and Member States, among them Germany as the host country of the Conference, to work together very closely. At the same time, additional financial contributions are needed in order to permit delegates from certain developing countries to take part in the event.

As regard sub-programme 2.1.3.3 on Animal Genetic Resources, the follow-up process to UNCED and the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity require, in the opinion of my country, more emphasis to be placed on the conservation and sustainable use of these resources for food and agriculture rather than on reproduction, genetics, and bio-technology. By making good use of available scientific expertise and adapted technologies, activities in this direction could and should be intensified. My delegation supports the prudent implementation of the Special Action Programme in animal genetic resources in collaboration with all member countries concerned. We are much in favour of a coherent strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture under the roof of one intergovernmental body. It is urgent, in this connection, to fill the new but still vacant posts in both sub-programmes.

My delegation fully supports the activities and concrete results developed under sub-programme 2.1.7.3, Global Information and Early Warning System for food and agriculture. We see in this activity a very appropriate help for more effective action in the field of food security, conservation of natural resources, agricultural development and food aid because the planning and implementation of concrete measures must be based on fairly reliable data and information which this system is able to provide.

The review of project operations under chapter 4 reveals the decline in the volume of the field programme since 1990. This makes it even more imperative to streamline technical and administrative procedures. Therefore, my delegation is hopeful that the merger of the three operational divisions, AGO, FIDO and

FODO, into one organic unit with a common working system could bring about the desired effect. A common guideline for TCO work appears advisable; however, the differences in the technical character of agricultural, fishery and forestry projects must not be underestimated.

With regard to chapter 5, my delegation commends FAO's work done to improve the monitoring, prevention and control of transboundary plant pests and animal diseases. The Special Programme EMPRES is seen by my delegation as a complementary continuation of these efforts as growing world trades in agricultural commodities, international tourism and often uncontrolled movements of humans and livestock in the wake of civil strife urgently require effective systems of prevention. Of course, FAO cannot be but a coordinating and supervising agency in this field. National capacities building should remain one priority concern for FAO in this particular field.

Specific remarks on sub-programmes:

2.1.2.1 Plant Genetic Resources

Paragraph 15 (last two sentences): No conclusion is drawn from the statement that the timing of CPGR sessions is not appropriate for recommendations and directions to be reflected in the respective PWB. There are further reasons for a change.

Paragraph 22: The mentioned Network of *Ex Situ* Collections is supposed to be a core element of the multilateral system to be established under the revision of the IUPGR. Therefore, its further development and operativeness will be closely bound to progress and the outcome of the revision exercise.

Paragraph 36: The Network of *In Situ* and On-Farm Conservation areas is given prime importance by Germany.

To implement it successfully requires further studies and the definition of scientific bases and concepts, with the respective countries playing the decisive role in securing such areas and maintaining their functions. The State of the World Report and the Global Plan of Action on PGR are expected to provide pertinent proposals for action.

Paragraph 61: This statement goes too far. The further development and operativeness of the Global system will largely depend on the outcome of the 4th International Technical Conference on PGR and the revision of the International Undertaking.

Paragraph 67: When speaking of the main pillars in natural resources, forest genetic resources in addition to plant and animal genetic resources should be considered. Or it would be better to refer to genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA).

Paragraph 69: The assertions on potential sources and modalities of funding are shared and the respective conclusions supported by Germany.

Paragraph 70: The involvement of the Social and Economic Policy Department and of the new Sustainable Development Department is of great importance for the design of new, innovative and sustainable concepts. It should be intensified.

Paragraph 79: It is not clear why two funds of FAO for PGR are referred to. The discussion on the follow-up funding mechanism for CBD implementation should also consider the possibility of GEF.

Paragraph 80: It is not clearly shown (only reference to farmers' rights which have still to be definitively interpreted) why FAO is expected to play a vital part in *in situ* conservation. This might be important with regard to additional funding requirements. Nor is it clear why the forestry sector is brought in here.

Paragraphs 82/83: The need is supported of developing a global seeds policy, a clear and unified position on genetic diversity and of its use, with the issue of breeders' and farmers' rights being incorporated and all relevant services of the Organization being involved. In doing so, a close cooperation with our international agencies and the careful analysis of and adherence to international agreements should be followed.

Paragraph 83: When speaking of utilization, the perspective should be extended to the whole of genetic resources (PGR, ANGR, FGR) in conjunction with their use by agriculture land and other land use requirements, e.g. forestry, landscape management, resource protection (species conservation and ecosystems alike). FAO should develop a clear strategy for this.

2.1.3.3 Animal Genetic Resources

Paragraphs 48-50: Germany endorses the correct decision to stop the donation of semen to European cattle breeds in Africa and Asia because these schemes are counteractive to efforts aimed at conserving local breeds. In principle, it is correct to shift funds for conventional animal breeding projects towards breed conservation schemes.

As regards the aim of long-term conservation of local breeds by sustainable *in situ* management, i.e. commercial use at the site of origin, however, conventional animal breeding techniques, particularly those of animal reproduction, performance testing, breeding value testing and selection, should be prudently employed further on and be propagated.

Paragraphs 72/73: The broadening of the mandate of the CPGR first on farm animals appears to be reasonable and should be advanced taking into account the possibilities of funding.

Paragraphs 69, 84-86: The intention of FAO is to be welcomed to concentrate its activities in the sphere of animal genetic resources on coordination and information. Indeed, the likeliness is to be rated low of extra-budgetary resources to flow from Member Nations to FAO. Consequently, concepts of organization and projects of FAO should be devised in such a manner that, to a large extent, existing facilities and activities in Member States can be incorporated on their own. Therefore, a global information system should be conceived as an open one into which all Member States and interested NGOs could introduce specialized electronic data programmes, and information. FAO should not attempt to define or even establish a self-contained and comprehensive information system of its own.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Gracias señor Presidente. Siguiendo sus recomendaciones, vamos a tratar de ser lo más breves posible.

La delegación española desea hacer algunas puntualizaciones que van en la misma dirección de las que ya ha realizado en otras reuniones en las que se han analizado estos temas.

En primer lugar, quisiéramos dejar de manifiesto que el informe que se nos ha presentado mejora su estructura en relación con los anteriores; no obstante, deseamos insistir en la necesidad de encontrar la forma de que los informes de evaluación de los programas reflejen con claridad la relación entre resultados alcanzados frente a los objetivos previstos, así como el grado de sostenibilidad de la propia acción de cara al futuro. Como se indica en el punto 2.8 del documento CL 108/14, la posible solución estaría en hacer referencias concisas en el cuerpo del informe sobre los aspectos indicados, además de un análisis en función del costo, pasando la parte puramente descriptiva a anexos adjuntos.

Como comentario al análisis detallado que se nos presenta de los subprogramas de conservación y ordenación de los recursos fitogenéticos y de los recursos zoogenéticos, creemos que la valoración del bienio 94/95 viene irremediabilmente influida por acontecimientos que han venido produciéndose durante este plazo de tiempo y que ya vienen afectando a tales subprogramas. En relación al primer subprograma, recursos fitogenéticos, nuestra delegación se remite a lo que está recogido en el capítulo 8 del informe de situación de los recursos fitogenéticos en España, enviado a la FAO en abril del presente año. Las ideas que se incluyen en la propuesta para un plan de acción mundial, pueden resumirse así: El plan debe suponer una auténtica muestra de solidaridad internacional y referirse a los recursos fitogenéticos relativos a la agricultura y a la alimentación, con inclusión de las especies aromáticas, condimentarias y medicinales; el plan debe construirse sobre una base multilateral y tener como telón de fondo la seguridad alimentaria mundial; el plan debe definir los mecanismos para proveer y aplicar un fondo internacional específico y diferenciado. Estos mecanismos deberán evitar cualquier tipo de lesión de intereses para los países, muy especialmente de los países en

desarrollo; el plan debe contemplar tanto los recursos fitogenéticos *in situ* recolectados y conservados con anterioridad a su implantación como los que se recolecten y conserven con posterioridad; el plan deberá, por último, dar un adecuado desarrollo conceptual y jurídico al concepto "derechos del agricultor", procurando la participación y el protagonismo de los agricultores en el mismo.

Por lo que respecta al subprograma de recursos zoogenéticos, también los acontecimientos últimos hacen que la valoración del programa 94/95 esté influida por las determinaciones que se vienen adoptando. La posible ampliación del mandato a la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos de la FAO para que se convierta en Comisión de Recursos Genéticos, afecta a ambos subprogramas profundamente. Recordaremos que, en la intervención de nuestra delegación en el pasado Comité de agricultura del mes de marzo del año actual, insistíamos en reiterar nuestra posición en cuanto a la conveniencia de que la FAO intervenga, a través de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos, en la ordenación de los recursos zoogenéticos.

La intensidad de dedicación la limitará exclusivamente la baja disponibilidad de recursos económicos, aspecto que puede verse aliviado con recursos extrapresupuestarios de instituciones gubernamentales y no gubernamentales, así como la colaboración de las propias organizaciones de agricultores y ganaderos que ya trabajan en esta dirección.

Por último, señor Presidente, y en aras a la brevedad, sólo quisiéramos resaltar la conclusión puesta de manifiesto en la reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en cuanto a la necesidad de mantener un equilibrio prudente entre las actividades normativas y operacionales, así como el hecho de que la disminución prevista de las actividades de campo entrañará la liberación de recursos de personal, lo que puede permitir una potenciación de las actividades normativas.

Mi delegación considera de gran interés y absolutamente realista el anterior razonamiento y coincide con la posición de España sobre este particular, ya puesta de manifiesto en anteriores sesiones del Consejo.

Es evidente que el reforzamiento de estas actividades de carácter normativo servirá para proyectar una imagen de la FAO como dirigente intelectual en sus ámbitos de competencia y como participante activo en el desarrollo de los distintos países, satisfaciendo así las expectativas de todos los Estados Miembros.

Cesar Augusto ANDRÉ MONTEIRO (Cap-Vert): Le deuxième Rapport d'évaluation du Programme fournit une base utile à l'examen des résultats de certains programmes et activités ainsi qu'aux questions et suggestions concernant les mesures de suivi sous une forme globale intégrée. Ce document concis et systématique, qui couvre l'exercice biennal 1994-95, traduit, à notre avis, l'effort fait par le Secrétariat de la FAO pour améliorer progressivement le contenu analytique de l'évaluation, bien que les résultats obtenus soient positifs malgré les difficultés financières et les contraintes que connaît actuellement l'Organisation, dans une période caractérisée par les ajustements nécessaires dans le cadre du processus de restructuration en cours.

Ma délégation exprime sa satisfaction au Secrétariat pour la qualité et le caractère instructif du document et, en même temps, approuve, dans la généralité, les recommandations pertinentes contenues dans le rapport de la session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier.

C'est aussi avec satisfaction que nous constatons des résultats évidents dans l'exécution des divers programmes, notamment du Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide (SMIAR), d'une importance et d'une efficacité pratique, et du Programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire (PASA), entre autres. Nous sommes convaincus que la politique de décentralisation, y compris la valorisation des ressources humaines locales, que la FAO est en train de mettre en place permettra d'améliorer l'exécution du Programme et son efficacité.

T. WADE (Officer-in-Charge, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I do not think I need to say much; most of the statements were in the form of statements rather than questions. We were very appreciative of the comments, both the complimentary comments and the suggestions for improvements, which we take on board.

There were a couple of points which might be worth mentioning. I think it was both the United States and Canada who referred to the need to always examine priorities in the context of what other organizations are doing. We are taking that on board. We will try and reflect it more in the Programme Evaluation Report, but we do expect to have a special chapter on this issue in the Medium-Term Plan as part of our effort to respond to this issue.

Several suggestions were made for subjects in the future of Programme Evaluation Reports. We will take note of these and raise them as part of the consultation with the Programme Committee, which we hope will take place reasonably soon.

Regarding the question of feedback and lessons learned, Mr Chairman, I wonder if you mind very much if Mr Kato could address this technical question for just a few moments because we do agree it is very important.

M. KATO (Chief, Evaluation Service): Thank you, Mr Chairman. A number of delegations stressed the importance of feedback from the evaluation - and, particularly yesterday, the United States, Japan, Canada, and the United Kingdom and certainly we appreciate very much of the underlining the importance of this. Certainly this is the acid test of the usefulness of the evaluation work, and at the same time, this is really an area of real challenge for, I think, all the evaluators.

We have some procedures which are working relatively well. There are still many areas needing improvement, but I would just like to outline quickly what we do in this area. Perhaps I can divide our activity in this area, perhaps, in two ways.

One, regarding the Field Programme, integrate through field project evaluations. At the individual project level, the feedback is relatively straightforward because there is already a tripartite mechanism for managing projects; so that whenever the Evaluation Report comes up, its recommendations, findings are discussed and very quickly acted on within three to six months of the evaluation.

Now we have in this process, of course, since these evaluation missions are independent, constituted by usually consultants external to the project evaluation - project implementation, they provide us with advice, and it is up to the FAO donor and host countries to judge whether the recommendations provided are useful. So, of course, we -not only the Evaluation Service but the technical units and, operations units concerned -they review and participate in formulating what should be the collective action for managing projects and how to reflect the recommendations of evaluation missions for future action.

We have a little bit more complex situation when we come to more aggregate level, and there, I think, drawing of lessons, identifying major thematic issues, usually a system relating to the system of the field programme management within FAO with the donors -these become very important.

When I say it is more complex here and more difficult to do this work well, it is partly because really identification of lessons is not that easy, particularly generic ones. And so it takes time; we have to be very careful, and lessons have to be formulated in a relevant and useful and operational fashion; so that is one reason. Of course, also, the feedback of such lessons into planning and implementing future projects - that involves the organization system that exists, for instance, within FAO for project identification for the project cycle. So there are many more units involved; the process is more complex. It takes time to negotiate with the various people to get the lessons accepted and incorporated. So this is a lot more difficult process for our part, Evaluation Service.

We maintain a project evaluation data base and, as you may have seen, from time to time we make syntheses through which we try to identify important issues, lessons. These such findings are distributed annually within FAO, both in Rome and field offices, with these reviews by the Field Programme Committee in the Secretariat, and points are taken up from there. Also we provide feedback of these lessons through staff training, seminars, courses, and also in the guidelines that we prepare. And, of course, we exchange this information among the evaluation units in the UN System. And the ongoing structuring of the field programme work - this is an opportunity for us to incorporate many of these lessons in the new procedures, new guidelines that are being examined now.

In the field - in the Regular Programme based activities, there, for individual programmes such as those as you see reported here, we work very closely with the programme managers, and we try to work with them rather informally. The discussion of the issues we identify, the points raised here in the report, as you see -these are all discussed with the programme managers, and certainly we would make a more systematic effort to, in future, to report their reaction and any key action that we agreed for follow-up.

More broadly, for the FAO's programme as a whole, just as in the case for the Field Programme, it is a more fluid situation, more complex. I think, so far, we have been working fairly informally, but within the Division, Programme Budget Evaluation Division, we work closely, and particularly in the process for preparation of the Medium-Term Plan Programme of Work and Budget. And, for instance, during the time of the reorganization proposal, we have been very actively involved in this process.

I am not going into the citing of examples, but in some ways I think one good example of this interaction is that, as Mr Wade mentioned, through this evaluation work that we have come to the realization that it is important to improve the programme planning process and, I think it is one of the very significant outcomes of the feedback process that we have here in the Secretariat.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco al señor Wade y al señor Kato sus aclaraciones. Como no veo a ningún miembro del Consejo ni observador que desee hacer uso de la palabra, concluimos este debate del punto 15 de la siguiente manera.

El Consejo acogió con beneplácito el informe sobre Evaluación del Programa de 1994-95 que consideró que contenía una mejora importante en su formato.

Indicó también que había una clara tendencia hacia un análisis de mayor profundidad en temas específicos y se sugirió que dicho examen debía ser más analítico y menos descriptivo. Se mencionó la posibilidad de que el formato se reajustara de tal suerte que los aspectos analíticos se consideraran primero y luego en anexos se incluyeran los descriptivos.

El enfoque por temas se consideró también adecuado y se apoyó la selección y revisión de los cinco temas contenidos en el documento de examen.

Se insistió en la transcendencia de una evaluación profunda dentro de un sistema de evaluación bien organizado, que es la base obligada de una mejor acción futura y de la solidez de la organización. Ese esfuerzo debía conllevar la correlación entre insumos, productos y costo eficaz.

Varias delegaciones insistieron en que el ejercicio debería llevar a la identificación más clara de las ventajas comparativas de la FAO. Se sugirió que cuando la evaluación indique situaciones en que las expectativas no pueden ser satisfechas debían tomarse medidas para corregir o eliminar aquellas actividades correspondientes e ir ajustando a la Organización conforme a su ventajas competitivas.

Al respecto el Consejo tomó nota de la forma en que la FAO ha venido operando y asegurando una retroalimentación entre la evaluación y la organización de orientación de sus programas y actividades.

Se enfatizó en la necesidad de mantener un equilibrio adecuado entre los aspectos normativos y operativos de la FAO y se recordó que la FAO debía potenciar su calidad de centro de excelencia mundial, a la vez que seleccionara apropiadamente acciones de campo que tuvieran el máximo impacto y sirvieran también para mantenerla en contacto con la realidad.

Se reconoció la importancia del esfuerzo de descentralización durante el bienio 94-95, en expectativa de que ello llevará a la multiplicación de acciones iniciadas por la FAO entre otras instancias internacionales y nacionales, en especial en favor de la seguridad alimentaria que se subrayó era el objetivo principal de nuestra Organización.

Algunas delegaciones sugirieron que se lleven a cabo exámenes sobre el impacto esperado y ventajas de la Oficina de Cooperación Técnica, las reformas y descentralización de la FAO y su efecto sobre eficiencia y entrega de programa y ejecución de programa de campo.

Algunas delegaciones también insistieron en su interés por una revisión de la asistencia técnica a países en transición.

Finalmente los miembros del Consejo destacaron diversos párrafos y actividades de la FAO que describían evaluaciones o subprogramas o programas que a su juicio merecían un apoyo pleno, así como otros aspectos que habían sufrido reducciones y que debían restablecerse. Dichos comentarios se pueden encontrar en los verbatim y no haré referencia detallada a ellos.

Señores delegados, con esto concluye mi resumen de sus debates; desde luego, están ustedes libres para expresar y enfatizar sus puntos de vista como lo deseen en el Comité de Redacción. Si no hay ningún otro punto que deseen ustedes tocar, me permito entonces pasar al Tema 17 de nuestra Agenda: Informes de los 71° y 72° periodos de sesiones del Comité de Programas con inclusión del Examen de los Programas, documentos CL 108/4, CL 108/14 y CL 108/LIM/3.

Me voy a permitir pedirle al doctor Bommer, Presidente del Comité del Programa, que presente estos dos informes.

PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

- 17. Reports of the Seventy-first and Seventy-second Sessions of the Programme Committee, including Review of Programmes**
- 17. Rapports des soixante et onzième et soixante-douzième sessions du Comité du Programme, y compris l'Examen des programmes**
- 17. Informes de los 71° y 72° períodos de sesiones el Comité del Programa con inclusión del Examen de los Programas**

D. BOMMER (Chairman of the Programme Committee): Mr Chairman, I am very happy to present to you on behalf of the Programme Committee three reports in which we have been involved, that is to say, two joint meetings with the Finance Committee, one in January and one on 21 April, and the Programme Committee meeting proper which, we held in April.

Yesterday I had the honour to refer you to our comments on the Programme Committee meeting in relation to the Evaluation Report. The largest part of this report is related to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. I have discussed with the Chairman the comments which I will provide to you tomorrow when we discuss item 16.

It is now therefore left to me to introduce to you the rest of this work which is distributed through the document and I will just guide you through it briefly so that you know what I mean. The general meeting was very much concentrated on the Outline of the Programme of Work and Budget which the Director-General had presented to us, and I think the joint committees were very happy to have an early opportunity to discuss with the Director-General the outline and the further development through the summary to the full Programme of Work and Budget. What we said in relation to the Programme of Work and Budget itself is very well reflected in the preparation of the summary and I will therefore refer to it again in relation to the item under the Programme of Work and Budget tomorrow.

There are some other items and I want to refer here only to one, because I think that maybe a little has escaped your own observation. Normally at this time of the year you would receive, together with the summary work and budget, a Medium-Term Plan of the Organization. In the outline the Director-General had proposed that he wanted to prepare a long-term plan and, from there, to delineate a medium-term plan. We discussed it and advised him and he has already acted upon this advice and has decided to leave the preparation of the long-term plan until such time as these major policy meetings have passed and their conclusions are known to flow into the long-term view, which in particular are the two Ministerial Meetings

on Forestry and Fisheries, the important Quebec 50th Anniversary and the Summit on Food Security. I think he agreed to this as a much more logical sequence but at the same time left the request that the Medium-Term Plan, based on present assumptions and restructuring and new views expressed at the 107th Session of the Council, be prepared but be delayed because of the new changes which have taken place in the Organization and which will be presented to us later this year. I am sure that it will come to the September meeting, to the Programme Committee, and then from there to the Council and Conference in the fall. I think it is important to keep this in mind and this is the point that I wanted to stress from the joint meeting that we had in January.

In our meeting on 21 April the Summary Programme of Work and Budget came in the middle of our deliberations but we had also a pre-exchange of views on the document that the Director-General had prepared for the Council, the second progress report on the implementation of decisions of the Council at the 106th Session which will be discussed maybe on Monday or this afternoon, but I think it is with you for discussion. We noted in our debate the progress and developments which had been made in the 107th Session of the Council and you will certainly have an opportunity to comment on this further.

Finally, I want to move now to the other items that we discussed in the Programme Committee proper, again leaving our consideration of Programme of Work and Budget for tomorrow, where we have a number of points which I want to refer to you.

First, I am glad to announce that the Committee has elected Mr Winston Rudder of Trinidad and Tobago as its Vice-Chairman for 1995, replacing Ms Fatima Hay at who served the Committee last year with high distinction.

Secondly, I regret to report that the Committee was not able to discuss a number of JIU reports. The Finance Committee did, but our time was just too limited. In an attempt to save on meeting times, we felt that our time was too restricted and insufficient to look more deeply into the programmes presented in the summary. These reports will be on our agenda in the September meeting and we will then report to you on our findings.

The Committee certainly returned to its discussions on its review of the committees in non-conference years (next year for instance) and it recalled its recommendations to you to adopt a more flexible approach for future reviews by adding specific subjects for in-depth consideration in consultation with the Director-General. As a result of these deliberations and proposals made by the Director-General, the Committee decided to propose to the Council that it should consider the following subjects in 1996 and 1998, to be combined with our review activities and also a budgetary chapter, technical and economic programmes which we normally have to perform: (a) the relationship between Regular and Field Programmes, including TCP, a subject which came up over and over again in our debate and also in your debate, which I think is certainly worth looking into very specifically; (b) an in-depth analysis of one selected programme as a model to improve programme planning and presentation and to facilitate programme assessment; (c) FAO's policy in respect of publications and dissemination of information in view of fast-growing technologies; (d) partnership cooperation and coordination in FAO's programme with other international, regional and national organizations, something which is so often coming up and which was again mentioned in our recent debate; (e) relative merits and cost effectiveness of various approaches of FAO support for inter-country cooperation and technology transfer.

Finally, the Committee recalled the strong interest of Member Nations in FAO's assistance and follow-up to the Uruguay Round, and it therefore recommended that the related FAO activities be clearly identified in both the next Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget and that it be one of the subjects covered in the Programme Evaluation Report 1998-99.

Mr Chairman, the Committee seeks the approval of the Council so that we can go on preparing our future meetings.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, doctor Bommer por sus comentarios introductorios; creo que han sido de gran utilidad y van, seguramente, a guiar los debates de nuestro Consejo sobre este tema de manera apropiada.

Abro la lista de oradores. ¿Hay alguna delegación que desee hacer uso de la palabra? (denegaciones) Estoy a punto de declarar que el Consejo endosa los dos informes.

Distinguidos delegados, si así se decide, el Consejo endosa los informes de las 71° y 72° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa. Doctor Bommer creo que sus aclaraciones han sido muy útiles para este Consejo, seguramente se recogerán en el Informe. Le agradezco a usted por ellas.

Bien, señores delegados con eso termina el Tema 17.

Señores delegados pasamos entonces, si me lo permiten, al Tema 18.

Bien, el Tema 18 son los informes de los 80° y 81° períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas.

Me parece que el delegado de Egipto quiere hacer algún comentario. Distinguido delegado de Egipto tiene usted la palabra.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, I will be very brief. The members of the Programme Committee would like to thank Dr Bommer for the excellent manner in which he has conducted the deliberations and the work of the Programme Committee so that we have been able to adopt the two reports in such a short period of time. I want to refer to this so that we can show our appreciation.

I would also like to comment on the short period of time allowed for the Programme Committee. That created some problems for some members to play their role. I hope that the Council will take this into account when it deals with the time allotted to each of the Committees.

PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

- 18. Reports of the Eightieth and Eighty-first Sessions of the Finance Committee: for discussion and/or decision**
- 18. Rapports des quatre-vingtième et quatre-vingt-unième sessions du Comité financier pour examen et éventuellement décision**
- 18. Informes de los 80° y 81° períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas para debate y/o decisión**

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de Egipto. Yo no quise todavía hacer un homenaje al doctor Bommer porque todavía no lo estamos despidiendo. Como ustedes saben él también presidió la reunión conjunta del Comité de Programas y Finanzas y en vista de que el señor Khan, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, lamentablemente por importantes obligaciones en su país, no pudo estar con nosotros, el doctor Bommer ha aceptado muy amablemente ayudarnos en la presentación del Tema 18, que forma parte, claro, de los debates de la reunión conjunta entre ambos Comités.

Distinguidos delegados, sobre el Tema 18 ustedes podrán observar que tiene cuatro partes, voy a ir parte por parte. Respecto de la situación financiera de la Organización, recaudación de cuotas asignadas, cuotas pendientes, documentos CL 108/14, párrs. 3.28-3.47 y documento CL 108/LIM/1. Como ustedes pueden observar los párrafos que he mencionado del período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas tratan de la situación de la Organización al 18 de abril de 1995 en lo que respecta a las cuotas. El documento CL 108/LIM/1 se ha preparado para facilitar a ustedes, al Consejo, una actualización de dicha situación al 31 de mayo de este año.

A esta fecha, por tanto, la Organización había recibido más de 163 millones de dólares de las cuotas de 1995, lo que representa un 52,41 por ciento del total y, en general, esto está en consonancia con las cuotas recaudadas en esa misma fecha durante los últimos cuatro años. La recaudación de cuotas atrasadas ha ascendido sin embargo solamente a 13 millones de dólares, cantidad considerablemente menor que la

correspondiente a los últimos años. Además, sigue siendo descorazonador tener que tomar nota de que en el día de hoy hay 111 Estados Miembros que no han hecho ningún pago con cargo a sus cuotas de 1995, cifra que es una de las mayores registradas en esta fecha.

Por otra parte, hay 91 Estados Miembros que tienen cuotas atrasadas pendientes de pago de años anteriores, 43 de los cuales deben cantidades tales que corren el peligro de perder su derecho a voto en la Conferencia que se celebrará este año en fecha posterior.

Me complace observar, por otra parte, que desde que se preparó este documento se han recibido contribuciones de Ecuador, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Turquía, Polonia, República Islámica del Irán y Costa Rica. Dado el escaso nivel registrado en el pago de las cuotas por parte de los Estados Miembros, creo que resultaría adecuado que este Consejo insistiese, una vez más, en la importancia de que todos los Estados Miembros, independientemente de su tamaño, cumplan con sus obligaciones financieras hacia la Organización. Solamente de esta forma, ustedes lo saben bien, nuestra Organización podrá desempeñar sus trabajos y continuar cumpliendo con el mandato y los requerimientos que a ustedes, distinguidos delegados, sus gobiernos les hacen. Estoy por tanto seguro que este Consejo quizás querrá incluir en su Informe una declaración para tal efecto.

Distinguidos delegados, con estos pequeños puntos introductorios, le pregunto al doctor Bommer si puede completarlos con su presentación del Informe del Comité de Finanzas y de la reunión conjunta. Tiene usted la palabra doctor Bommer.

D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee): I am called here because I am sitting on the podium and I apologize to my colleagues of the Finance Committee. We have such a cordial relationship that I am now asked to introduce their Report but I am happy to do it as Mr Saleem Khan, the Chairman, cannot be with us. I have the written text which was cleared by him so I am just going to transmit it to you. He wanted to report to you that his meeting took place between the 18th and 24th of April and the Committee, unanimously re-elected His Excellency Gian Luigi Valenza, the delegate from Italy, who is Vice-Chairman for 1995. In reviewing its provisional agenda and timetable, the Committee made a number of revisions which allowed it to complete its work one day earlier.

The agenda of the meeting covered a wide range of budgetary, financial and administrative matters concerning and affecting the overall situation of the Organization. In addition to its review of the financial position of the Organization, the Committee also considered the financial situation and the strategic plans of the World Food Programme, the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Director-General's comments thereon and, most importantly, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. As usual, the Session also included a Joint Meeting with the Programme Committee to which I have already referred you earlier on.

Let me turn first to budgetary matters. The Annual Report of Budgetary Performance to Member Nations. The Committee reviewed the Director-General's Twenty-eighth Annual Report of Budgetary Performance to Member Nations. The Committee was informed that, due to the shortfall in the payment of arrears, it was inevitable that the full Programme of Work would not be delivered. More detailed information on which aspects of the Programme would be affected would be provided in the Programme Implementation Report for 1994-95 which would be considered at the Committee's next Session. Then if everybody would adhere, I should take it that, even if I said the Programme Committee's Report is undue in our finding, it was a Summary Programme of Work and Budget and here is now the statement from the Finance Committee.

To the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97. The Finance Committee focused its attention on the financial and budgetary aspects of the SPWB and confirmed the basic concepts, agreed at the Joint Meeting with the Programme Committee in January, that the level of the Programme of Work and Budget should reflect zero real growth with maximum absorption of non-discretionary cost increases. In this regard, one member mentioned that it may become difficult for his country to support a budget level in excess of US\$680 million.

There was general consensus in support of the Director-General's proposal to exclude the use of arrears in financing the budget and to discontinue this practice in future Programmes of Work and Budget. Considerable concern was expressed, however, about the level of the increase in assessments on Member Nations. While

appreciating that it was unlikely, it was recommended that ways and means be explored to increase the level of miscellaneous income, so as to reduce the level of assessments.

The methodology for the calculation of cost increases was explained in some detail and members made a number of suggestions for improvements to the presentation of this information in the full Programme of Work and Budget.

The Committee noted the assumptions made and forecasts uses in developing the Summary PWB and was advised of certain developments since its finalization, such as possible increases in professional and general service salaries, which may exert upward pressure on the provision for cost increases in the full PWB.

A number of suggestions were made for reducing the impact of cost increases, including a review of the grade structure of the Organization, a freeze on the remuneration level of international consultants and the realization of savings from shorter meetings and from other streamlining initiatives of the Director-General. It was agreed that the Secretariat would consider these for adoption in the full Programme of Work and Budget.

Suggestions were made regarding the use of savings resulting from the restructuring to offset cost increases; however, the general view was that such savings should be ploughed back into increasing productivity.

Members felt that replacement of the FINSYS/PERSYS system should be accorded a high priority to increase the efficiency and productivity of the Organization. Some members suggested that, given its significance, this activity should be incorporated within the Regular Programme. Most members felt that this would adversely affect other priorities and agreed that efforts should be made to seek supplementary revenues for the project.

The Committee noted that the methodology approved last year for calculation of the lapse factor resulted in a proposed average rate of 3.15 percent of established posts. It was recalled that the budgetary impact of new posts would be handled by costing them only for the period during which they were expected to exist.

The Committee recognized that in the final analysis, the Programme of Work and Budget would depend on the resources available to the Organization and urged Member Nations to pay their assessed contributions and past arrears. What we say to that is not too encouraging.

The Committee appreciated the efforts made to arrive at proposals which aim at achieving a maximum consensus on the PWB in the Council and at Conference later this year.

Let me now turn to the financial matters. First, the financial position. In review of the financial position of the Organization, the Committee noted that the number of member countries which had paid their annual assessments in full during the first part of the year had increased. On the other hand, and certainly of greater concern, was the fact that the number of member countries which had made no payment against current assessments continues to be high.

Further, a significant number of countries with outstanding arrears faced loss of their seats on the Council and/or loss of their voting rights in the Conference. In this regard it was recalled that the Committee had reported to the Council on the subject of arrears and voting rights.

The Committee also made a number of suggestions for an improved and more complete presentation of the financial information in future reports.

Second, the Interim Financial Report and Statements 1994: The Committee noted the income and expenditure statement of the Organization for 1994. It expressed its appreciation for the good management of the Secretariat which, notwithstanding the shortfall of receipts, had kept the overall deficit under control, and welcomed the plan of the Director-General to continue this effort throughout the remainder of the biennium.

Third, the scale of contributions: The Committee recalled that the FAO scale of contributions is derived directly from the United Nations Scale of Assessments and recommended a draft enabling resolution, found in paragraph 3.55 of the Report, to the Council for submission to the Conference. It was noted that the scale of contributions would be adjusted in the event of new members being admitted at the Conference.

The Report of Implementation of the Recommendation of the External Auditor: The Committee expressed its appreciation for this second report setting out the actions taken to implement the recommendations of the External Auditor. It noted the progress achieved and requested to be kept informed on the status of those issues not yet resolved. Let me now turn to personnel matters.

First, the Annual Reports of the ICSC and the UNJSPB to the General Assembly and Summary of the Decisions Taken: The Committee took note of the major decisions taken by the General Assembly on personnel matters, the new scale of professional salaries effective 1 March 1995 achieved through consolidation of post adjustment into base salary on a no-gain, no-loss basis; increased levels of dependency allowances and education grant and improvements in the pension scheme.

Second, changes in salaries and allowances. The Committee was advised of changes in the post adjustment which affected professional remuneration. It also noted that the outcome of the general service salary survey in Rome would be reviewed at the session of the ICSC in May 1995 and that a report on the matter would be provided to the next Finance Committee session.

Thirdly, recruitment and retention difficulties: The Committee took note of the information provided on recruitment and retention difficulties in the Organization, in particular the problems resulting from the inadequate level of post adjustment in Rome.

In addition, the Committee noted several other causes of recruitment and retention problems, e.g. the small number of junior level posts, the Organization's prohibition of spouse employment and the limited local employment opportunities for spouses. It urged the Secretariat to seek solutions to these problems.

Turning to Organizational matters, the Committee took note of six Joint Inspection Unit reports presented at the Session, including the Director-General's comments thereon. It commented substantively, however, on only two of them. First, United Nations Common System Premises and Services in the Field, which is Report 94/8, together with the comments of the Director-General. The Committee strongly encouraged the Organization to give consideration to the use of premises and services in common with other UN Agencies at field locations whenever possible. Second, the United Nations System Support for Science and Technology in Africa, which is Report 94/1, together with the comments of the Director-General. The Committee called particular attention to that Section of the JIU report which indicated some lessons of past experience in the UN System with the field of technology transfer in Africa.

Next, the report on FINSYS/PERSYS, Administrative Policies and Procedures. The Committee took note of the status of these projects and, in particular, that there were software packages available which could provide a solution to FAO's requirements for computerized financial and administrative systems. The Committee considered that the Director-General should continue to give high priority to this project in view of the need to enhance the Organization's accountability, efficiency and productivity.

There were four items on World Food Programme matters; the Interim Financial Report and Statements 1994, the Budgetary Performance Report 1994, the Progress Report on Implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations and the Strategic and Financial Plan 1996-97. These four items dealt with the financial position and strategic planning of the World Food Programme. The recommendations and comments of the Finance Committee were submitted to the CFA for its consideration.

In conclusion, on the whole, the Eighty-first Session of the Finance Committee was very productive and, in particular, the Chairman believed that it was possible to further the development of an eventual consensus for the adoption of the full Programme of Work and Budget. On behalf of the Members of the Committee, the Chairman would like to extend his appreciation to the Secretariat for its assistance in the Committee's deliberations and his gratitude to the Member Nations of FAO for providing them with the opportunity to further the important work of the Organization. He would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may wish to have regarding the Report.

I would, of course, have to pass those on to my colleagues on the Finance Committee. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Bommer, por sus comentarios que han sido exhaustivos y también aclaradores del sustancial informe que tenemos frente a nosotros. Ustedes habrán notado, distinguidos delegados, que la introducción que nos ha hecho el señor Presidente del Comité del Programa a nombre también del Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, es comprensiva de muchos aspectos de nuestras discusiones del día de hoy y también del día de mañana.

Para organizar el debate, como les había yo indicado, les propongo que vayamos punto por punto en el tema 18. Por tanto, tocaríamos primero el 18.1, Situación Financiera de la Organización, documento CL 108/14, párrafos 3.28 al 3.47. Les hago notar que el documento CL 108/LIM/1 actualiza la información contenida en esos párrafos.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, ustedes han escuchado también los puntos que toqué al respecto, antes de dar la palabra al doctor Bommer; antes de iniciar el debate le voy a pedir al señor Hjort que nos ofrezca también algunos comentarios.

18.1 Financial Position of the Organization

18.1 Situation financière de l'Organisation

18.1 Situación financiera de la Organización

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: With respect to Item 18.1, I simply wanted to note, as has been noted by the Chairman, that CL 108/LIM/1 updates the figures in CL 108/14.1 wanted to call attention to two sequences of figures in the updated LIM Report. You will note from April to May a significant increase in assessed contributions was received so that by the end of May the cash flow situation and the percentage of contributions received compared really quite favourably with the previous years listed in that table. With respect to paragraph 5 of the LIM document, I wish to call attention to the "Paid in full" numbers that appear in the second column. You will note that while in April, when the Committee was meeting, there were 34 who had paid in full, since then ten member countries have paid so that we have 44 member countries who have paid in full. That again compares very favourably with the historical record here, as we had only 31 in 1991 or 1992, 32 in 1993 and at this time last year 37.

I point these facts out, not in order to minimize any of the comments that have been made about problems with arrears, but to suggest that the comments of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee about the concern over arrears and the accelerated efforts that the Secretariat has made to encourage member countries to pay their arrears appears to have had some positive results.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Hjort, por esta actualización de la información que se presenta al Consejo. Abro ahora la lista de oradores; voy a dejar la lista abierta y le ofrezco la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Cuba.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Como usted observó, señor Presidente, apuramos el solicitar la palabra en este punto que creemos muy importante. Hemos escuchado la presentación en la lectura hecha por el doctor Bommer; a la vez hemos leído los documentos sobre la situación financiera de la Organización, contemplada en el documento CL 108/14. Entendemos que estamos en el derecho de ejercer lo que es producto de la importancia de la política multilateral; el hombre piensa como vive y nosotros pensamos como país en desarrollo. Conocemos la importancia de la FAO; creo que la hemos manifestado muy abiertamente en estas sesiones; conocemos perfectamente la pulcritud de los funcionarios de la FAO desde el punto de vista financiero y económico, y como administran sus finanzas, pero, señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, tenemos que hacer algunos comentarios producto, lógicamente, de algunas cuestiones que han tenido referencia sobre lo que acabamos de escuchar y además en lo que manifestó usted, señor Presidente, hacer una declaración sobre este controvertido problema.

Lógicamente se habla de que cuando un país tiene cuotas atrasadas puede perder los derechos de voto y los derechos inherentes que tiene en la Organización. Yo parto de un principio, señor Presidente, todo país debe pagar; pero hay países que no es que no paguen, sino que no pueden pagar. Creo que aquí hemos hablado de

las situaciones de los distintos países; se ha manifestado la situación de América Latina con una abultada deuda externa; se han planteado situaciones muy particulares; muy particulares, repito, sobre algunos países que están atravesando situaciones muy difíciles, pero, cuando un país en vías de desarrollo no puede pagar, no porque no quiera, sino porque no puede, una de las cuestiones de la creación de la FAO es ayudar a los países en desarrollo que tienen una situación económica muy crítica. Entonces, a esos países se les va a aplicar toda la pérdida de sus derechos. La pregunta mía es ¿qué pérdida de derecho van a tener países que mantienen a la Organización en un estado crítico de absoluto estancamiento y que solamente pagan para no perder el derecho a voto?

Estamos hablando desde un punto de vista moral. Ayer me decía un colega de un país que no quería venir a estas reuniones porque le daba pena llegar aquí y decir que él no pagaba. Sencillamente vamos a ver qué país tiene el 50 por ciento de responsabilidad de pago en estas Organizaciones y están comprendidos en todo, en todos los comités, en todas las organizaciones, y un pobre país pequeño, que es el que necesita la ayuda de esta Organización, a ese vamos a aplicarle toda la cuestión de la Ley. Yo no creo eso justo y, lógicamente, como no lo creo justo, lo creo y mantengo en este mismo principio equitativo y transparente de que todas las opiniones son válidas, tanto las de los países que no pueden pagar, como las de los países que no pagan porque no quieren.

Aquí, señor Presidente, estamos en un espíritu colectivo, la hegemonía queda fuera; y con la misma sinceridad y con la misma honestidad planteamos esta cuestión. Si esto hay que decirlo vamos a hablar claro, porque mientras tengamos fuerzas vamos a estar defendiendo a los países pequeños que no pueden; a éstos no se les puede aplicar voluntad política, hay que plantearles voluntad económica. Entonces, no vamos a sancionar a aquellos países que tienen en un estancamiento a la Organización principal de la Agricultura y la Alimentación dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y todos vamos a estar aquí en esta sesión tan importante, precisamente en un Consejo preludio del 50° Aniversario de la Organización.

Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Bommer et le féliciter pour la qualité du résumé qu'il vient de faire au nom du Président du Comité financier. Je suis certain que le résumé qu'il a fait rend fidèlement compte des travaux auxquels M. Bommer a participé en sa qualité de Président du Comité du Programme. Nous n'avons pas grand-chose à ajouter à ce résumé puisque nous avons pris part à ces différentes conclusions.

Je voudrais me référer cependant au document CL108/LIM/1 et notamment à la précision que M. Hjort a voulu apporter pour une nouvelle interprétation des données qui sont dans ce document. Je voudrais indiquer que les précisions qu'il a données ne sont pas complètes. Il faudrait prendre en compte également ce que vous avez mentionné dans votre introduction liminaire, plus précisément à la dernière page du document qui est une photographie de la situation de l'Organisation au 31 mai. La situation qui nous préoccupe, c'est la situation au moment du Conseil. Il convient de mettre à jour ces informations pour, d'une part que les documents soient interprétés de façon exacte, et d'autre part pour éviter de donner des informations qui sont dans une certaine mesure déjà dépassées.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene usted razón señor delegado. Esto se reflejará adecuadamente y aparecerá en el Informe de nuestro Consejo.

Mario MOYA PALENCIA (México): Mi delegación, señor Presidente, comparte la preocupación general por el estado financiero de nuestra Organización. Estamos preocupados, no solamente en términos propiamente financieros o crematísticos, sino sobre todo por la necesidad de fortalecer los programas de la FAO en el ejercicio de su mandato y por que se lleven a cabo las reformas y las transformaciones administrativas que han sido ya votadas y decididas con anterioridad.

El señor Director General por una parte ha presentado un presupuesto con un crecimiento cero, y sólo ajustes por materia cambiaria y de inflación, pero nos ha dicho también que están paradas las reformas y las transformaciones administrativas, sobre todo la apertura de las oficinas regionales en distintas partes del mundo. Esto nos preocupa y comprendemos que no haya otro remedio que suspender una serie de gastos

mientras la situación no cambie, pero también creemos con usted, señor Presidente, y con lo expresado con anterioridad y con lo que dice también el informe y el documento que estamos estudiando, que la causa principal de este problema es el atraso en el pago de las cuotas de parte de los Estados Miembros.

Creo, señor Presidente, que todos tenemos que hacer nuestra parte en esta materia y que, como dice el documento en su inciso 1.8, la contribución económica a la FAO constituye una de las esencias del pacto de solidaridad que une a los miembros de ésta como a los de todas las organizaciones internacionales.

En este momento se inicia una severa crisis económica en el mundo que algunos todavía no perciben, pero que en mi país es muy claro. Los grandes centros económicos de poder financiero han empezado a retirar, y en algunos casos violentamente, sus capitales, empezando por los especulativos de los llamados mercados emergentes y otra vez, como cuando la crisis de la deuda, que todavía no ha terminado, el tercer mundo se encuentra sin elementos económicos para hacer frente a sus más urgentes necesidades.

Es lógico, pues, que varias de las naciones en desarrollo, miembros de la Organización, estén atrasadas en sus cuotas de este año y en algunas pasadas. Creo que todos debemos hacer lo posible por ponernos al corriente; pero los principales contribuyentes, señor Presidente, que tienen por ello mismo una mayor responsabilidad en el estado de la Organización, en el mandato de la Organización misma, deben hacer un esfuerzo mayor.

Creo que la idea que usted nos expresó de que el Consejo emita una resolución, haga un llamado a todos los deudores para que se pongan al corriente en sus pagos, es muy conveniente. Mi país la suscribe de manera total. Quizás sería también muy importante que diésemos un mandato especial al señor Director General para que hiciera gestiones personales ante los deudores y contribuyentes mayores para que cumplan con sus obligaciones y responsabilidades.

No se trata, señor Presidente, de que algunos países que estén atrasados pierdan su derecho a voto. Ya sabemos que eso es lo que dice el estatuto, pero lo que nos preocupa es que nuestra Organización conserve su universalidad, que sea una Organización participativa, que todos concurren a elaborar la decisiones que tiene su estatuto y que contribuyan de esta manera a resolver los problemas de la alimentación, del desarrollo agropecuario, ganadero y pesquero del mundo.

Nos preocupan los programas de la Organización, y por ello es necesario que las cuotas de los países que aún no se han pagado y las cuotas atrasadas se cumplan.

Nos parece, señor Presidente, que éste es el momento de hacer un esfuerzo importante para que esta situación termine, ya que de otra manera nos vamos a encontrar en la Conferencia con problemas muy serios y después vamos a tener que encontrar nuevos caminos, no sólo para conducir a esta Organización al cumplimiento de sus fines, sino para mantener un orden internacional que parecía que con el cese de la guerra fría sólo se nos auguraba paz y desarrollo y que nos está demostrando que no es así, ya que se están multiplicando las tensiones regionales. Ahora mismo muchos países están empleado sus fuerzas militares en otros, o hay guerras intestinas y civiles y porque tampoco ha sido una verdad, por desgracia, que haya un clima muy favorable para el desarrollo económico y social de las naciones.

Las crisis de los organismos internacionales, por desgracia, nosotros las vemos como síntoma de una crisis mucho más grave en las relaciones internacionales, pero creemos firmemente que todavía estamos a tiempo para impedirla.

Olivier MARGUERITTE (France): La délégation française tient à redire sa préoccupation quant à l'accumulation du montant des arriérés dus à l'Organisation et au nombre des pays débiteurs.

Les ouvertures de crédit nettes correspondant au budget approuvé pour le biennium 1994-95 devaient être financées non seulement par les contributions courantes des Etats Membres, mais aussi par 38 millions de dollars d'arriérés. Nous attendions une amélioration de la situation; en réalité elle continue à se détériorer.

En effet, ce que l'on constatait à mi-biennium, soit au 1er janvier 1995, c'est que le montant des arriérés, loin de se réduire par rapport au 1er janvier 1994, était au contraire en augmentation nette de 4,7 millions de dollars (passant de 133,6 millions de dollars à 138,3 millions de dollars).

Qui plus est, à la veille de l'ouverture du Conseil, les paiements d'arriérés sont nettement inférieurs à ce qu'ils étaient à la même époque en 1994 (15 millions de dollars contre 21 millions de dollars), comme vous l'avez souligné vous même. Certes, on peut vouloir relever des signes encourageants: le pourcentage de recouvrement des contributions courantes (52,41 contre 39,62) est en amélioration par rapport à l'année dernière. Aussi, le nombre d'Etats Membres ayant intégralement versé leur contribution augmente. (44 contre 37).

Mais, nous ne pouvons pas perdre de vue que, pour que les ouvertures de crédits nets approuvés à la dernière Conférence soient financées, il faudrait non seulement que les contributions courantes soient versées intégralement en 1995 mais aussi que 42,7 millions de dollars d'arriérés soient versés (les 38 millions inscrits au budget et 4,7 millions de dollars supplémentaires). Nous paraissions bien loin du compte hélas, comme vous l'avez rappelé, Monsieur le Président du Comité du Programme dans votre introduction.

Nos motifs de préoccupation se trouvent ainsi malheureusement renforcés surtout si l'on considère qu'à ce jour 91 Etats Membres restent en situation d'arriérés; que 107 pays membres n'ont effectué aucun paiement à l'Organisation depuis le début de l'année et que 44 Etats Membres (et non 45 comme indiqué dans le document CL/108/LIM/1) comme l'a fait observé le représentant du Burkina Faso, seraient passibles des sanctions prévues par les textes fondamentaux au respect desquels nous sommes attachés.

Nous approuvons pleinement l'appel lancé au paragraphe 10 du document CL/108/LIM/1 et demandons, pour la Conférence, l'application effective et rigoureuse des textes existants et une interprétation stricte des dérogations à leur application (limité par exemple au cas de catastrophes naturelles d'ampleur exceptionnelle ou d'état de guerre).

Par ailleurs, il nous paraît opportun que la réflexion concernant la mise en place de systèmes d'incitation et de sanctions susceptibles d'améliorer le recouvrement des contributions obligatoires s'engage, en tenant compte de ce qui pourrait être arrêté dans d'autres Organisations du système des Nations Unies, pour aboutir effectivement à un redressement de la situation actuelle.

De nombreuses pistes mériteraient d'être explorées, même si nous savons que rien ne pourra remplacer, en définitive, la volonté politique de chaque Etat Membre de contribuer au bon fonctionnement de l'Organisation en s'acquittant de ses obligations. Permettez-moi de citer quelques-unes de ces pistes: l'imposition de restriction, voire d'interdiction, à tout mauvais payeur pour le financement de programmes sous forme de contribution volontaire (il convient d'éviter en effet que certains pays ne soient tentés de choisir de payer à leur seule convenance en fonction d'objectifs sélectionnés); ou encore l'interruption, dans le même ordre d'idée, des contrats de fournisseurs avec des entreprises relevant d'un Etat débiteur.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. First and foremost, I should like to tell you how pleased I was to hear - with the Secretariat's introduction of the report of the Finance Committee, and I know that this is the result of tremendous efforts and excellent collaboration between all our colleagues and members of the Finance Committee.

I would like to invite Council to adopt this report. However, I think there is one key subject to which we need to draw attention to here. That concerns the tremendous arrears of a large number of countries have got involved in and the repercussions of this on the work and activities of our Organization, an Organization which we all want to see improved as regards its situation.

How can the Organization move ahead in this way? How can it be asked to continue to work even more, do even more important tasks, if it is facing such a difficult financial situation due to the failure of such a large number of countries to pay? I know well that some member countries, developing countries - I know that some of them are facing difficult economic situations which hamper their payment of contributions. But in the case of these countries, I would ask that due account be taken of their situation so that we can all find a solution to enable these countries which are in difficulties to follow the work of the Organization, and I do not think we should hamper their participation in all activities of a multilateral nature in which our Organization engages. This is a subject, of course, which will be discussed in due course, and we shall adopt the corresponding resolutions and decisions at the coming Conference, but what is the case of the rich countries which have not paid their contributions?

We very much hope that efforts will be made, and we are doing our best in the G77 to ensure that the G77 countries which are able to pay continue to pay, and pay even in those cases where their figures might not be very large. Their contributions would enable our Organization and the member countries - taking into account these difficulties - to forge ahead. We are satisfied to see that some member countries of our group which were threatened with not being able to participate and vote - well, we are pleased to see that their situation has now returned to normal.

On the other hand, we would like to make an appeal to the developed countries, the developed countries which continue to be in arrears. We would urge them to pay up as soon as possible so that their example will be a clear message showing that they are in favour of the Organization, that they are determined to help multilateral assistance for developing countries, which will enable these developing countries, I say, to reach this level of partnership which is sought by all of us in this international community without any hinderance or any economic obstacle to international trade to ensure that international trade is really free.

Hernando AGUDELO VILLA (Colombia): Pregunto, si sería pertinente que en la sesión de la mañana pudiera leer una declaración que mi Delegación tiene sobre la situación financiera de la Entidad, porque había entendido que sería pertinente hacerlo cuando se discutiera el Tema 16, pero como oigo que se está hablando de los temas generales financieros, quiero preguntarle si puedo leer esta declaración aquí, en este momento, o me reservo para el día de mañana.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguido delegado de Colombia, como usted sabe, estamos tratando el Tema 18.1 que toca la situación financiera de la Organización; si sus comentarios son relativos al presupuesto de la Organización, yo le suplicaría que lo hiciera el día de mañana; si toca, por otra parte, la situación financiera estrictamente, entonces que los haga ahora, o, si puede dividir su intervención, igualmente le pediría que la parte relativa a la situación financiera la tocara en este momento. Le doy a usted, desde luego, la decisión.

Hernando AGUDELO VILLA (Colombia): La declaración de Colombia dice lo siguiente:

1. La América Latina está sufriendo los efectos de la llamada "fatiga de ayuda" que la Administración de la Organización ha puesto de presente en sus documentos presentados al Consejo, y que se manifiesta en el relajamiento del esfuerzo financiero para apoyar las labores de una entidad que tiene a su cargo hacer frente a los graves y crecientes problemas de la agricultura y de la alimentación en el mundo.

En el caso de la FAO se advierte un relativo estancamiento e inclusive retroceso en los recursos denominados extrapresupuestales que se canalizan a través de la entidad; y, en la indisciplina, no justificada en muchos casos, para el pago de las cuotas de sostenimiento e impulso de sus programas.

2. La expresión más palpable de esta fatiga es la política presupuestal de la Organización. Para la vigencia próxima de los años 96 y 97 la Administración presenta al Consejo, con los alcances de gran "logro", un presupuesto sin crecimiento que representa en términos generales la congelación de las actividades y la imposibilidad de ampliar sus programas, cuando la Administración misma declara "que el presupuesto ordinario de la FAO debería continuar siendo un instrumento catalizador para que la comunidad internacional se coloque a la vanguardia de las batallas en pro del desarrollo alimentario y agrícola".

Al "presupuesto sin crecimiento" se ha llegado incrementando el presupuesto de los años 94 y 95 solamente en un 11,7 por ciento, o sea, aumentándolo de 673,1 millones de dólares a 704,9, es decir, en 31,8 millones, con los cuales apenas se absorbe el 5,56 por ciento del índice de inflación (27,9 millones) y los costos denominados "bientalización" (3,8 millones).

La Administración en el llamado "Esbozo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto" había solicitado un aumento de 59 millones y se logró reducir a 31,8 millones, mediante la revisión de los estimativos de aumento de los costos a la luz de cálculos más detallados e informaciones actualizadas.

Y la reducción fue aceptada por la Administración con el argumento adicional de que ello facilitaría la aprobación del presupuesto por consenso, teniendo en cuenta que habría una menor carga en el incremento de las cuotas, que se proyecta en un 11,7 por ciento para absorber solamente los incrementos por inflación.

3. El real estado financiero, que debería estar claro y transparente en la presentación del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996 y 1997, documento CL 108/3 y en los informes de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas, documento CL 108/4 y CL 108/14, no es fácil analizarlo y comprenderlo. Se advierte, a primera vista, una notable deficiencia en la elaboración del presupuesto y la presentación de los estados financieros. Así, por ejemplo, no se sabe cómo se amortizará el déficit acumulado de la vigencia que terminó por 42,2 millones y que, según el Comité de Finanzas, puede aumentarse y acelerarse por la falta de pago de las cuotas y la plena ejecución del Programa de Labores.

Tampoco se puede analizar qué significado tiene en las finanzas de la entidad el activo por cobrar, o sea, las cuotas atrasadas de 1994 para atrás, que puede ser, una parte al menos, exigible y dar base para apropiaciones presupuestales. En resumen, se trata de la presentación de un presupuesto que no permite evaluar debidamente los egresos e ingresos teniendo en cuenta el déficit de vigencias anteriores y sus activos reales.

Si se quiere incrementar el presupuesto para los dos próximos años, únicamente para absorber los costos por inflación, se requeriría solamente un aumento del 11,7 por ciento del presupuesto actual de 673 millones de dólares, partiendo de la base de que el déficit acumulado estaría cancelado. Si éste no está amortizado, lo requerido sería mucho mayor para la vigencia de 1995-96, a fin de poder cancelar el déficit acumulado de 42,2 millones y cubrir los costos de inflación por 31,8 millones de dólares.

4. Para financiar el incremento del presupuesto de la vigencia 1995-1996 en un 11,7 por ciento, la Administración propone un incremento de cuotas del 11,7 por ciento.

Este aumento, complejo y delicado, no es fácil señalarlo a priori, como el instrumento más adecuado para sanear las finanzas de la entidad y financiar el nuevo presupuesto.

El 31 de mayo de 1995, según el documento 108/LIM/1, el estado de las cuentas de los países miembros, era el siguiente:

Cuotas por cobrar correspondientes a 1995: 148 201 021 dólares.

Cuotas atrasadas correspondientes a 1994 y vigencias anteriores: 112 541 913 dólares.

Es importante hacer hincapié en algunos aspectos sobre el atraso de las cuotas de los países miembros: en términos generales, no es anormal el ritmo de pago de las cuotas de 1995 de los países desarrollados. Apenas van corridos cuatro meses del año y puede observarse que muchos de tales países, los principales contribuyentes, ya están al orden del día.

El problema de los atrasos radica en los países en vía de desarrollo y en la abultada deuda del primer contribuyente de la organización (155 140 818 millones de dólares), de los cuales corresponden 76 540 818 a cuotas de 1994 y vigencias anteriores y 78 600 a 1995.

También el Comité de Finanzas expresó que "hay clara evidencia de que continúan las dificultades de muchos Estados Miembros para hacer frente a sus obligaciones externas, sobre todo en aquellos casos en que las economías son débiles o se ven afectadas por desastres materiales o por luchas internas".

5. Merece análisis separado el concepto de si el debido cobrar, o las cuotas atrasadas, puede o no utilizarse para financiar el nuevo presupuesto.

El Director de la entidad ha expresado categóricamente que "es muy conveniente que se deje de recurrir a fórmulas algo artificiales, como se hizo en los últimos bienios, permitiendo que una parte del pago previsto de los atrasos se utilizara para financiar el presupuesto total, a fin de evitar que las cuotas asignadas de contribución aumentaran sustancialmente".

Esta apreciación también amerita un análisis más detenido. Si el debido cobrar, por lo menos en parte, es un activo de la entidad, como en realidad lo es, no parece que sea artificial incorporar parte de los atrasos de cuotas como un ingreso en el presupuesto, previo y exhaustivo estudio que permita identificar lo cobrable.

Debe tenerse en cuenta también, en relación con el aumento de las cuotas, la preocupación del Comité de Finanzas sobre el riesgo de que el incremento de ellas puede provocar un empeoramiento ulterior de la ya difícil situación en lo relativo a los atrasos.

Recomendaciones:

Primera. Solicitar al Director y funcionarios de la Organización que persistan en el empeño de ajustar los métodos de trabajo a las tendencias tecnológicas modernas y adoptar modalidades de acción más económicas, tal como lo expresan en los documentos entregados.

No ha habido en los últimos tiempos un ensayo de tal naturaleza, con el fin de simplificar procedimientos, recortar gastos y burocracia, si la hay, y hacer economías.

Segunda. Con motivo de la efemérides de los 50 años de la entidad, promover un amplio compromiso político de los Estados Miembros para el pago de las cuotas atrasadas. Un esfuerzo en esta materia permitiría a la entidad, holgadamente, sortear sus dificultades presupuestales durante la vigencia de 1996, si se tiene en cuenta que el debido cobrar de la Organización correspondiente a las vigencias de 1994 y anteriores, asciende el 31 de mayo a 123 150 663 millones de dólares y los requerimientos para solventar su situación financiera serían del orden de 74 millones de dólares para absorber el aumento de costos por inflación (31,8 millones de dólares) y para amortizar el déficit acumulado de vigencias anteriores (42,2 millones de dólares).

Los países de la Organización deberíamos hacer el solemne compromiso de realizar el máximo esfuerzo para cubrir las deudas atrasadas y cumplir también con puntualidad nuestras obligaciones financieras durante el próximo bienio, que serán fijadas por la Conferencia, con base en los reglamentos de las Naciones Unidas.

Este compromiso lo consideramos más eficaz y realista que un alza de cuotas.

Tercera. Estudiar la manera más efectiva y racional de aplicar las sanciones que contemplan los Estatutos para los miembros renuentes en el cumplimiento de sus obligaciones sobre la base de que dichas sanciones tienen que ser impuestas por igual a los grandes y pequeños Estados y que se disponga de procedimientos claros y expeditos para estudiar y resolver los problemas que afectan a los países que les impiden ponerse al día en su obligaciones financieras.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, before I come to item 18.1, allow me to give a few general views. Since Indonesia is not a member of either the Programme or Finance Committees, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Indonesian delegation to congratulate and thank the Chairmen and members of those two Committees for their excellent work in the preparation and presentation of the reports contained in document CL 108/4 and CL 108/14, including the report of the joint meeting of the 71st and 72nd Sessions of the Programme Committee and the 80th and 81st Sessions of the Finance Committee. I would also like to express our appreciation and thanks to the Secretariat for making available these reports to this Council meeting.

The Indonesian delegation is in agreement with the Committee's views as contained in paragraph 40 of the report (CL 108/4), in inviting the Director-General of FAO to put forward views on how revenues might be increased, costs reduced or low priority activities postponed or reduced. The Indonesian delegation also fully agrees with the Committee's proposals for further dialogue in order to reach unanimity of opinion on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996/97 on the basis of no real growth in budget level.

Mr Chairman, my delegation shares the views of the previous speakers in appreciating and thanking the Finance Committee, especially Dr Bommer, on behalf of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, for the very comprehensive and valuable report before us contained in CL 108/4, paragraphs 3.28-3.47. My

delegation agrees very much with the financial position of the Organization as stated in paragraphs 3.29-3.31 and urges all Member Nations who have not fulfilled their contributions for the years 1991 to 1995 (paragraph 3.34) to do so in the near future in order to strengthen our Organization.

It is my opinion that all Member Nations of FAO expected more from our beloved Organization to assist us, but, on the other hand, there were in the range of 115 to 120 Member Nations for the period 1991 to 1995 who were not able to meet their responsibilities to this Organization. Therefore, we should look for other alternatives to help both sides, the Organization and these Member Nations who are not capable of paying their contributions. We assume that there are very poor countries to be assisted.

EL PRESIDENTE: Ustedes notarán, distinguidos miembros del Consejo, que el señor Embajador Valenza, Vicepresidente del Comité de Finanzas, está entre nosotros. Debido a que adelantamos el tratamiento de este tema, él no pudo dirigirse a ustedes oportunamente pero me ha pedido hacer uso de la palabra a estas alturas para ofrecerles algunos comentarios. Señor Embajador Valenza, tiene usted la palabra.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Vice-Président, Comité financier): Je voulais avant tout m'excuser de ne pas avoir pu lire moi-même le rapport sur le Comité financier mais on m'avait dit, au début de la semaine, que cette discussion aurait lieu cet après-midi. Or, ce matin, on m'a averti qu'elle devait se tenir à la fin de la matinée. Je suis donc arrivé dès que j'ai pu, mais vu le manque d'orateurs pour l'examen du rapport du Comité du Programme, mon collègue et ami, le Président du Comité du Programme, a lu à ma place la déclaration qui devait être faite. Je m'en excuse encore.

Je voudrais ajouter quelques informations qui, à mon avis, pourraient être utiles au Conseil. Vous ne savez peut-être pas, parce que cela ne figure ni dans le rapport, ni dans la déclaration qui a été faite ce matin, qu'il a été décidé, au sein du Comité financier, de créer un groupe de travail de ce Comité composé des membres du Comité financier ayant leur siège à Rome. En peu de mots, au lieu de neuf, nous sommes seulement sept et la présidence me revient puisque je suis Vice-Président et que mon ami le Président n'habite pas Rome. Nous avons donc déjà commencé à travailler et nous avons demandé à avoir parmi nous des membres du Secrétariat de la FAO afin d'avoir d'autres informations sur certains arguments qu'il pourrait être intéressant d'étudier en détail.

Jusqu'à présent, nous n'avons pas pu avoir de rencontre avec ces membres du Secrétariat parce que le Conseil se réunit en ce moment, mais on m'informe que cette réunion se tiendra immédiatement après la fin des travaux du Conseil. Elle se tiendra exactement le 20 juin, à 10 heures, dans la salle du Mexique. J'en profite pour en informer ceux de mes collègues du Comité financier qui se trouvent dans cette salle. J'envverrai certainement un message fac-similé, aujourd'hui, à mes collègues pour leur confirmer la chose.

Je vous remercie encore en vous priant de m'excuser de n'avoir pas avoir été avec vous dès le début de cette discussion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Embajador Valenza; le pido también disculpas por no haber podido ofrecerle la palabra con toda oportunidad, pero ya ve usted que la dinámica del Consejo nos ha permitido hacer avances sustanciales en el tratamiento de la agenda. Tiene la palabra la delegación de Australia.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): Mr Chairman, I would like to add my thanks to Dr Bommer for his introduction on behalf of Mr Khan and for the updated information that we got from the Deputy Director-General, Mr Hjort. We too have concerns about the level of arrears. We feel that all Members have a financial obligation to the Organization and should make every effort to meet it.

I will be quoting from some figures drawn from the summary. This is not part of my addressing the Summary of Programme of Work and Budget, but the figures just happen to relate to the level of arrears. We note that in the area of contributions and arrears payments, some US\$ 31.7 million of 1994 contributions remained unpaid and that 85 Member Nations had made no payment at that year. This was then updated by

Mr.Hjort, indicating that there were still 91 Members who owed arrears for 1994 or prior years. Mr Hjort indicated that compared with about the same as in previous years. My delegation's attitude is that it is not good that such a situation has been allowed to perpetuate itself for so long. We should never get to a situation where we shrug and say "O.K., it is the same as in the past", and I am sure that Mr Hjort was not inferring that.

Again, according to the Summary it expresses concern at paragraph 17 about the accumulated deficit of US\$ 38.2 million and the indebtedness of the General Fund to the Working Capital Fund of US\$ 4 million totalling US\$ 42.2 million. The concern expressed is completely understandable. It is indeed offset by the arrears outstanding. We note approvingly from that Summary that the Director-General is enacting stringent measures to contain expenditures in order to limit growth of the deficit and we sympathize with the extent in which this will be necessary in the course of actions of Member Nations.

Throughout the Summary we will be discussing tomorrow, there are indications that extra budgetary funding is either being sought or is needed to carry out specific worthwhile projects. This is mentioned in paragraph 22. We can appreciate the frustration the Director-General must feel in trying to draw up a Programme of Work which cannot be completely met from the Regular Budget while so many countries and such large sums are outstanding. There is some inequity involved here when countries who meet their financial obligations year after year, often not without some domestic difficulties, are being looked to as sources of extra funding.

I would like to advise the Council that Australia will be shortly making its 1995 contribution in full. It is our usual practice, as the Secretariat is aware, to make our contribution early in the financial year as this corresponds with our national budgetary process.

K. SHIMIZU (Japan): My delegation wishes to say a very few words by limiting my intervention to the arrears problem. Before so doing my delegation expresses its appreciation for efforts of the members of both Committees on Programme and Finance. Japan is very much concerned over the arrears which have a great impact on the smooth operation of this Organization. It is with particular regret about the arrears carried over from previous years. To my understanding 45 countries are now facing potential arrears problems. The arrears deserve every criticism as this is a lack of responsibility as a Member. It is strongly urged that Members should make an early and full payment of their contribution.

Salah HAMDI (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): Ma délégation voudrait faire part de sa préoccupation quant à la situation financière quelque peu difficile de l'Organisation. Cette situation est d'ailleurs difficile pour le Secrétariat de l'Organisation et est également préoccupante pour les Etats Membres parce qu'un grand nombre d'entre nous se pose les questions suivantes: quel sera l'avenir de l'Organisation et quel rôle jouera-t-elle si elle ne dispose pas des ressources nécessaires?

Bien sûr, cette situation est le résultat direct des arriérés de contributions. Certains pays ne se sont pas acquittés de leurs contributions et les arriérés ont atteint un chiffre particulièrement élevé. Cela constitue une véritable menace pour le bon fonctionnement de l'Organisation et l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget. Ces arriérés cumulés ont déjà eu un impact négatif sur le budget et la disponibilité des ressources; et comme cela a été souligné dans le Programme de travail et budget, cela risque d'engendrer une augmentation des contributions pour certains Etats Membres. Cette augmentation des contributions s'explique également par une augmentation des coûts du fait de l'inflation. Nous comprenons cela mais nous faisons remarquer qu'il en résulte un fardeau supplémentaire pour un grand nombre de pays en développement, surtout pour les pays qui, jusqu'à présent, n'ont pas pu faire face à leurs obligations. Ces pays se trouvent déjà dans une situation difficile et devront supporter ce fardeau supplémentaire.

Certains pays qui se trouvent dans une situation économique particulièrement difficile ont déjà fait part de leur volonté politique parce qu'ils veulent que l'Organisation continue de travailler. C'est la raison pour laquelle ces pays ont déjà versé une partie de leurs contributions. Cela figure d'ailleurs dans le rapport et M. Hjort l'a également rappelé lorsqu'il nous a fourni une actualisation de la situation. Nous comprenons donc que la situation difficile à laquelle se heurtent certains pays en développement les empêche de régler leurs contributions - nous savons tous de quels pays il s'agit - et nous savons qu'ils ont la volonté de le faire malgré

leurs difficultés économiques. Je voudrais nonobstant me joindre aux orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour lancer un appel urgent aux pays concernés - qu'il s'agisse de petits ou de grand pays, comme l'a indiqué l'un de ces orateurs - pour qu'ils déploient des efforts supplémentaires afin de redresser la situation et d'éviter à l'Organisation de se trouver dans une position financière particulièrement difficile. L'Organisation disposerait ainsi de ressources suffisantes pour lui permettre de mener à bien son programme tel qu'approuvé par les comités techniques et les organes directeurs. Elle pourrait ainsi disposer de tous les moyens nécessaires pour réaliser ces programmes, ce qui serait également bénéfique pour tous ces pays.

Je voudrais rappeler que nous avons souvent réitéré notre volonté politique de souscrire aux initiatives prises par le Directeur général de l'Organisation, notamment la préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation ou les différentes activités dans le cadre de l'exercice biennal à venir et du Programme de travail et budget dont nous discuterons demain. Comme je l'ai dit, nous nous préparons à pouvoir jouer pleinement notre rôle et nous faisons de notre mieux pour bien commémorer le cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO.

Bien sûr, nous participerons à l'élaboration de la déclaration de Québec, qui reprendra un certain nombre de principes permettant de donner un nouvel élan à l'Organisation, ce qui sera bénéfique pour tous les pays en développement. Tous ces programmes ambitieux devraient nous faire réfléchir très sérieusement sur le problème des arriérés et sur la situation financière dans laquelle se trouve l'Organisation. Et tout un chacun devrait déployer tous les efforts possibles pour appuyer l'Organisation et lui octroyer les ressources nécessaires.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina): Gracias señor Presidente. La delegación argentina quiere manifestar que comparte los comentarios generales formulados por la delegación de Colombia con relación a la situación financiera de la Organización. En particular, la delegación argentina se asocia a las recomendaciones formuladas por el señor Embajador de Colombia en el sentido de realizar los máximos esfuerzos dentro de la Organización para ajustar las actividades a los mayores ahorros posibles, pero, sobre todo, se asocia a sugerir un compromiso por parte de los estados, que tenemos demoras en el pago de las cuotas, de realizar el máximo esfuerzo para cubrir las deudas atrasadas y cumplir con puntualidad nuestras obligaciones financieras en el próximo bienio.

Ms Teresa HOBGOOD (United States of America): My delegation's brief comments will relate solely to the level of funding from the United States this year. We will make our 1995 payment to FAO soon after the beginning of our next fiscal year which begins on October 1st. The budget for the coming fiscal year is now being debated in US Congress. While it is too early to be certain what the Congress will approve, the apparent situation does not look as promising as we had hoped.

All of the proposals under consideration contained significant cuts in almost all portions of the US budget, including US contributions to UN Agencies. For years the rest of the world has urged the United States to reduce or eliminate its government budget deficit and the US Congress is now acting on that advice. Therefore, it is virtually certain that the United States will not make a full payment of its 1995 assessed contribution to FAO. The likely shortfall will be between 10 percent and 20 percent of our annual assessment.

Srta. Virginia PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela): Nuestra delegación, señor Presidente, está consciente de las dificultades financieras por las que está atravesando la FAO y de los esfuerzos que realiza el Director General para tratar de solucionarlas.

Este problema exige una seria reflexión no sólo acerca de los compromisos adquiridos por los países miembros para cancelar las contribuciones pendientes, sino también sobre los factores que actualmente afectan las economías de muchos países en desarrollo.

Efectivamente la carencia de recursos de la Organización limita su actividad al momento de atender sus programas, pero no es menos cierto que nuestros países confrontan situaciones económicas y sociales adversas y apremiantes que dificultan el pago de sus cuotas. Este hecho no puede ser soslayado al momento de examinar la cuestión.

Mi país está viviendo una crisis económica que se ha agudizado en los últimos años, agravada por el ingente déficit fiscal y sus consecuencias negativas. A esta situación se añade, además, una crisis financiera que ha generado un alto índice inflacionario, disminuido el empleo, el ahorro, las inversiones y la productividad, sin olvidar el pago del servicio de la deuda externa que alcanzará el próximo año cerca de un 40 por ciento del presupuesto nacional.

Con la intención de buscar soluciones a esta grave situación, el Gobierno de Venezuela ha puesto en práctica medidas de austeridad fiscal y restricción severa del gasto público. Contemporáneamente está organizando y optimizando el funcionamiento del Estado para hacer más eficiente su actuación. Además mi Gobierno está actuando un proceso de sinceración dirigido a reajustar sus responsabilidades ante todos los organismos multilaterales a la luz de las necesidades nacionales, ya que es la primera vez en la historia que Venezuela tiene a causa de los problemas económicos tantas obligaciones pendientes con los organismos multilaterales, sin tener en cuenta lo adeudado a los fondos especiales y al FIDA.

De cuanto hemos dicho hasta aquí, señor Presidente, se deduce que la situación de atraso en el pago de las cuotas de Venezuela no es debido a un acto voluntario, tanto es así que hemos realizado un esfuerzo para homar parte de nuestra obligación atrasada, prueba de nuestra voluntad política de contribuir y apoyar a la FAO. Sería pues paradójico que un país en nuestra situación fuese favorable al aumento de sus compromisos. Por el contrario, señor Presidente, debemos estudiar a fondo la capacidad real de pago de todos los países, con el propósito de lograr una participación equitativa y proporcional a las realidades económicas de cada estado, lo cual aunado a una mejor racionalización de los gastos y una optimización del uso de los recursos de la FAO podría contribuir a hacer frente a las insuficiencias financieras de la Organización con el fin de que ella pueda mantener, e incluso ampliar, sus actividades imprescindibles para lograr el desarrollo económico y social de los pueblos y la mitigación del hambre y la pobreza.

Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique): Je n'avais pas l'intention d'intervenir dans ce débat me réservant une prise de position à l'occasion de la discussion du point 16. Mais je me sens quand même obligée de le faire, après avoir entendu le débat.

Pour commencer, je m'associe pleinement aux pays comme la France, l'Australie, le Japon, l'Egypte qui comptent indiquer combien il est inacceptable que des arriérés des montants que nous voyons s'accumulent sans que des mesures soient prises. Il me semble que c'est une très mauvaise excuse de dire que l'on a un déficit budgétaire, et qu'à cause des contraintes qu'impose l'assainissement de ce déficit budgétaire on ne peut pas satisfaire ses obligations internationales.

Si ce raisonnement était suivi par mon pays, nous n'aurions pas payé depuis très longtemps nos contributions aux organisations internationales. Nous sommes parmi les payeurs les plus ponctuels en dépit du fait que nous avons un déficit budgétaire qui, en terme de pourcentage du PNB, dépasse de très loin celui de certain pays qui y trouvent un prétexte pour ne pas satisfaire à leurs obligations.

Cette situation est très grave et elle doit être redressée d'une façon ou d'une autre.

Ceci ne veut pas dire que l'Organisation elle-même ne porte pas une grande responsabilité de son côté, c'est-à-dire la responsabilité de voir comment, de la façon la plus efficace, la moins coûteuse la plus "streamlined" possible, elle peut exécuter son programme. Nous en discuterons au moment où nous discuterons du budget et du programme. Mais les responsabilités sont partagées aussi bien par les Etats Membres que par l'Organisation. On ne peut pas amputer une organisation de façon injustifiée de ses moyens lorsqu'on a une obligation internationale.

Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso): Je voudrais réagir à toutes les préoccupations concernant les arriérés.

Le Comité financier, on s'en souviendra, avait été mandaté par ce même Conseil pour examiner un certain nombre de questions relatives aux arriérés. Il y a dans un de ses rapports des recommandations qui visaient essentiellement à renforcer un certain nombre de mesures déjà existantes, et qui devaient être renvoyées à la Conférence pour décision.

Le Comité financier a examiné, lors de sa dernière session, la question toujours préoccupante des arriérés. Plusieurs interventions sont allées dans le sens de savoir s'il fallait mandater une deuxième fois le Comité financier pour qu'il examine un certain nombre de dispositions, ou s'il fallait donner le temps aux organes directeurs de mettre en application les dernières recommandations du Comité financier.

Je voudrais donc poser cette question et que nous puissions nous déterminer par rapport à cette question. De deux choses l'une, ou nous adoptons les recommandations du Comité financier qui demandaient de mettre dans un premier temps en application ces dernières mesures de rigueur; ou nous estimons que ces mesures, quoique n'ayant pas été mises en application, s'avèrent inefficaces et qu'une recommandation claire sera donnée par le Conseil au Comité financier qui est prêt en tout cas à ouvrir le dossier pour faire un examen approfondi. Séance tenante, on ne peut pas examiner tous les tenants et les aboutissants de la question des arriérés. Il convient de les traiter au sein de l'instance appropriée.

Inge NORDANG (Norway): I did not intend to speak on this issue but I feel I must be on record as supporting what has been said by Belgium and Japan.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina): Sin perjuicio de agradecer a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas su informe sobre la situación financiera de la Organización, mi delegación sugiere, a raíz de la intervención del delegado de Burkina Faso, que las recomendaciones del Comité de Finanzas se posterguen hasta después que hayamos tratado el tema: Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Quedaría pendiente a lo que resulte de esa discusión.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: First, I wish to assure the delegations from Burkina Faso and the other six countries which have made payments, and any others which may make payments between now and the date of adoption of your report, that we will update the figures to include those receipts of contributions. Second, I wish to remind the Council that the matter that has consumed the most time and attention at this Session, the very important matter of arrears and the provisions of the Organization with respect to the loss of seat at Council and Conference, was a matter that attracted the attention of the last Conference. The Conference requested that the Finance Committee review the current rules and procedures. The Finance Committee did so at its September session, reported its conclusions to the Council at its meeting in November 1994, and the Council's conclusions on the matter appear at paragraph 208 of CL 107/REP.

I would note that the pending recommendations to the Conference from the 107th Session of the Council are in summary that voting rights should continue to be restored where default in the payment of arrears was due to "conditions beyond the control of the member country concerned". In other words, if a country is in arrears for reasons other than conditions beyond its control, that would not authorize the Council to restore voting rights. Point b), elaborating upon the criteria constituting conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation concerned, went on to state that voting rights should be restored only in exceptional cases and only on the basis of a formal request by the Member Nation concerned, specifying the circumstances that in its view constituted "conditions beyond its control".

There are other recommendations in that paragraph but I thought, in view of the discussion this morning, it was well to remind the Council that it has pending recommendations. On the basis of the discussion this morning, it may even want to strengthen these provisions. I invite your attention to paragraph 208 of the Report on the 107th Session of the Council, CL 107/REP.

I also wish to recall that there was a misunderstanding, I believe, on the part of the delegation of Australia on what I was referring to when I referred to updated numbers in the LIM document. I did not refer to the number of countries that were in arrears; what I was pointing out was a point that had not been made, that we had seen a significant increase in a number of countries that had paid their full assessed contribution.

A final footnote to the discussions on arrears; through the debates over the years on this matter, I have noted that we do not charge interest on payments or payments in arrears and, as a person who once was in private business myself, I can assure you if I found a supplier who did not charge interest I would put him at the end of those whom I would pay.

ÉL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Hjort por sus comentarios, y sugerencias, diría yo también. Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si, por favor, tienen alguna otra observación que hacer.

En ese caso podríamos concluir el debate del Tema 18.1 y me voy a permitir ofrecerles un pequeño resumen.

En primer lugar, el Consejo agradeció la presentación del Informe de la reunión conjunta de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa, y de los informes del 71° y 72° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas. El Consejo examinó la situación financiera de la Organización que en general se encontraba en consonancia con la de los últimos años, pero, precisamente por ello, expresó su preocupación por la situación financiera de la FAO. El Consejo lamentó la continuada dificultad financiera de la Organización, derivada del atraso en el pago oportuno de las cuotas corrientes, así como de los atrasos de cuotas anteriores que complicaban aún más la situación financiera de la FAO, el pago oportuno de las cuales y de todos los atrasos, es la única manera -el Consejo concluyó -, de que la FAO, continúe siendo una Organización viable, sana y eficaz. Es también la única manera, de que todos los países, todos los Estados miembros, sean congruentes con lo que se le exige a la FAO y se espera de esta acción internacional, que tiene como prioridad absoluta el logro de la seguridad alimentaria a nivel mundial. Por ello el Consejo observó, con gran pesar, que un elevado número de Estados Miembros no había pagado ninguna cantidad de sus cuotas corrientes y que el número de Estados Miembros con cuotas atrasadas seguía siendo muy alto. Las deudas de muchos de ellos son tan elevadas que corren el riesgo de perder su derecho a voto en la Conferencia.

Varias delegaciones argumentaron al respecto, que debían distinguirse los países en mora por razones estrictamente financieras y económicas, todos ellos países en desarrollo, de aquellos países pudientes cuya forma de actuar debía contener, quizás, un elemento de carácter político, de voluntad política hacia la FAO. Por ello consideraron que debía darse un tratamiento más considerado al primer grupo de países en cuanto al riesgo de perder su derecho a voto.

El Consejo tomó nota de las aclaraciones pertinentes de la Secretaría de la FAO en relación a la aplicación de esas reglas de la Organización. Se sugirió que las dificultades financieras por las que atraviesan muchos de esos países en desarrollo, pequeños y medianos, era el reflejo de un orden financiero y económico mundial que continuaba castigando el desarrollo económico de la gran mayoría de los países en desarrollo y que debía cambiar a fin de ofrecer oportunidades justas a todos.

No obstante, el Consejo declaró que todos los Estados Miembros, independientemente de su tamaño, debían cumplir con oportunidad con sus obligaciones financieras hacia la Organización. El principal contribuyente informó sobre los pagos programados para el presente año, pero advirtió que el monto a pagar para este año no llegaría al 100 por ciento y, quizás afectaría también a bienios posteriores; se limitaría en un 10 o en un 20 por ciento. Al respecto se recordó, con acuerdo básico en el establecimiento del nivel presupuestario para 1994-95, la inclusión de pago de cuotas atrasadas de ese contribuyente por 38 millones de dólares. Muchas delegaciones advirtieron que la existencia de un déficit y de una difícil situación presupuestaria no debía ser la excusa para no cumplir con las obligaciones internacionales, actitud que consideraron inaceptable.

Se instó pues, a todos los Estados Miembros a que paguen la totalidad de sus contribuciones incluyendo sus atrasos con la finalidad de que la FAO continúe desempeñando sus cometidos.

Varios sugirieron, también, reafirmar el mandato al Director General para realizar gestiones especiales con los deudores, en particular los contribuyentes mayores, para que cumplan con sus obligaciones.

Distinguidos delegados, con ello concluiría mi resumen. Si no tienen ustedes ninguna otra observación, cierro el debate respecto del Tema 18.1 de nuestra Agenda.

Se levanta la sesión. Muchas gracias distinguidos delegados, nos vemos a las 15.30 horas.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas.

8 June 1995



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session · Cent huitième session · 108° período de sesiones

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

8 June 1995

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.45
hours Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 45
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 15.45
horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes. Espero que hayan tenido ustedes tiempo suficiente para meditar respecto de nuestros trabajos de esta tarde. Como recordarán, habíamos tratado el Tema 18.1 y nos quedan, sobre el Tema 18, los puntos 18.2, 18.3 y 18.4, pero antes de darles curso deseo informarles respecto de la situación del grupo oficioso de trabajo para revisar el Proyecto de Declaración de Quebec. Les vuelvo a leer la lista de países que se han inscrito formalmente para consultarles si hay alguno más que desee hacerlo. Tengo Argentina, Australia, Brasil, Camerún, Canadá, Chile, Cuba, Dinamarca, Francia, Alemania, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Japón, Kenya, México, Noruega, Senegal, Suiza, Siria, Tailandia, Túnez, Reino Unido, y EE.UU. de América. ¿Hay alguna otra delegación u observador que desee participar en dicho grupo? Bien, en consecuencia el grupo queda integrado como lo he leído.

PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued) QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

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

- 18. Reports of the Eightieth and Eighty-first Session of the Finance Committee: for discussion and/or decision (continued)**
- 18. Rapports des quatre-vingtième et quatre-vingt-unième sessions du Comité financier pour examen et éventuellement décision (suite)**
- 18. Informes de los 80° y 81° períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas para debate y/o decisión (continuación)**
- 18.2 Budgetary Performance 1994**
- 18.2 Exécution du budget 1994**
- 18.2 Ejecución del presupuesto de 1994**
- 18.3 Scale of Contributions 1996-97**
- 18.3 Barème des contributions 1996-97**
- 18.3 Escala de cuotas para 1996-97**
- 18.4 Other Matters Arising out of the Reports**
- 18.4 Autres questions découlant des rapports**
- 18.4 Otros asuntos planteados en los informes**

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay objeciones, respecto del 18.2 les recuerdo que los temas más destacados son el examen tradicional por el Comité de Finanzas del Informe Anual que se ofrece en el apéndice al Informe del Comité de Finanzas. Como ustedes observan, la respuesta del Comité de Finanzas fue satisfactoria respecto del examen de la ejecución del Presupuesto de 1994. El bienio se ha caracterizado por la necesidad de medidas de austeridad, y la intervención del Director General para contener los gastos fue, sin duda, prudente. Me refiero aquí a los párrafos 3.5 a 3.10 del documento CL 108/4.

En lo que se refiere al Tema 18.3, Escala de Cuotas para el 1996-97, documento CL 108/14 y los párrafos 3.52 al 3.55 del Informe del 81° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, se recordará que la Organización suele basar su escala de cuotas en la correspondiente de las Naciones Unidas, a partir de la decisión en ese sentido adoptada por la Conferencia en su 8 o período de sesiones del 55. Tanto en el 18° período de sesiones del noviembre del 75, como en el vigesimosegundo período de sesiones de la Conferencia de noviembre del 83 se llegó a la conclusión de que sería conveniente que la escala de cuotas se siguiera basando directamente en la escala correspondiente de las Naciones Unidas. Las razones aducidas para ello fueron las siguientes. Se consideró que la Comisión de Cuotas de las Naciones Unidas era el órgano más cualificado para determinar la capacidad real de los Estados Miembros para pagar sus contribuciones; además, el apartarse de la práctica habitual de basar directamente la escala de la FAO en la correspondiente de las Naciones Unidas constituiría una duplicación de la labor realizada por la Comisión de Cuotas de las Naciones Unidas, tendría repercusiones negativas en todo el sistema de Naciones Unidas y haría que los Órganos Rectores de la FAO dedicaran una cantidad excesiva de tiempo a esta cuestión administrativa, en su esfuerzo por encontrar una alternativa idónea.

En el Apéndice C del Informe del Comité de Finanzas figuran las cuotas para los años 1996 y 1997, basadas directamente en la escala de cuotas de las Naciones Unidas aprobadas para esos años, según lo establecido en la Resolución 49/19 B de la Asamblea General, el 23 de diciembre de 1994. A fines de comparación, se consigna también la escala de la FAO correspondiente a 1994 y 1995. Las cuotas fijadas para los Estados Miembros en la escala de Naciones Unidas son más bajas que las de la escala de la FAO, ya que existe una diferencia en el número de Miembros, que requiere un aumento por prorrateo en las cuotas fijadas por las Naciones Unidas, a fin de llegar a una escala de la FAO de un cien por cien completo. Para el actual trienio, las Naciones Unidas han aprobado una escala distinta de cuotas para cada año, con el fin de facilitar la eliminación gradual del sistema de los límites. En consecuencia, y a fin de adaptarse en la mayor medida posible a la práctica seguida en las Naciones Unidas, la Organización propone, por primera vez, fijar escalas separadas para el 96 y el 97. El Consejo, por tanto, podría recomendar a la Conferencia que aprobara la escala tal como ha sido propuesta. En el párrafo 3.55 del Informe del Comité de Finanzas figura un proyecto de resolución en la que se autoriza a proceder en este sentido.

El punto 18.4 es explícito en sí mismo, de manera que, distinguidos delegados, tienen ustedes a su consideración estos tres puntos del Tema 18.

A estas alturas abro, por tanto, la lista de oradores. ¿Hay alguna delegación que desee hacer uso de la palabra? Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Francia.

Olivier MARGUERITTE (France): Je souhaite intervenir uniquement sur le point 18 point 3 de l'ordre du jour: Barème des contributions 1996-97.

La délégation française prend acte du barème des contributions pour 1996-97 présenté à l'annexe C du document CL 108/14. Nous comprenons que ce barème découle de celui adopté aux Nations Unies, à New York, avec certaines adaptations pour l'OAA. Certains pays verront la part relative de leur contribution baisser; d'autres, comme la France, la verront augmenter. Pour le presque néophyte que je suis, la logique voudrait qu'un Etat Membre dont la part de contribution augmente à New York voit sa part de contribution augmenter également à Rome, et inversement. En est-il bien ainsi?

Je serais reconnaissant au Secrétariat de bien vouloir donner des éclaircissements sur la méthodologie d'adaptation du barème new-yorkais au cas de l'OAA.

Saleh Sadiq OSMAN (Tanzania): The Tanzanian Delegation wishes to endorse the recommendation of the Finance Committee in terms of the resolutions proposed in paragraph 3.55 of document CL 108/14 regarding the scale of contribution for use in 1996/97. My delegation notes that the FAO scale of contribution has in the past been derived directly from the United Nations scale of assessment since 1955, when the Eighth Session of the Council adopted a resolution to that effect.

We also note that the FAO Conference in 1975 as well as in 1983 considered the practice in depth and concluded that it was still appropriate to continue to derive the FAO scale directly from that of the United Nations. My delegation thinks that it is still appropriate to continue deriving the scale of contribution for FAO from the United Nations, as this Organization is a member of the UN System and we consider it inappropriate to deviate from the norm at this stage.

The Tanzanian Delegation therefore strongly supports the proposed resolution on scale of contributions and enjoins the Finance Committee to urge Council to endorse this proposed resolution and submit it for the approval of Conference for use in 1996 and 1997 as detailed in Appendix C of the document.

Toivo PALM (Estonia): Mr Chairman, I should briefly like to refer to the situation of the payments of contributions as stated in document CL 108/14. I can comment only on my country's situation, but I note that the situation is the same for nearly all the other countries of the Eastern and Central European Region, although to varying degrees.

I wish to assure you, Mr Chairman, that our tardiness in payment of our dues to the Organization does not depend on bad will or calculation of the nature referred to by Mr Hjort. It is a question of our countries at this time passing a difficult stage in the restructuring of our economy and the privatization of our agriculture, with many of the aspects connected with this still in uncertain and inevitably inexperienced hands. However, I wish to assure you, Mr Chairman, that we have already included payment in full in our current year's budget and we hope that funds should reach FAO by the end of the year 1995.

I should also like to stress that we are naturally relieved over the results of the deliberations in New York which have led to a substantial reduction in all our contribution levels. Although we are aware that this is not a matter of FAO's decision, this reduction nevertheless reflects the fact that the earlier contribution levels assigned to us were based on false reflections of our national economic situations and these high levels of contributions were placed on us at a most delicate time in our development, that is, the earliest period of our regained independence.

I would also like to point out that the situation mentioned above was a heritage of the USSR situation which dissolved years ago. This was a country with political ambitions much higher than its economic possibilities and this became reflected in the fees payable to international organizations and also created the excessive charges to our countries as stated above.

In this context, I should further like to stress the importance to the three Baltic countries of advice in the area of economic policy in the form of forward-looking prognoses or scenarios which will guide us in our national deliberations as to which direction to follow in the times to come. It is our concern that the Organization's staffing in this area might require strengthening, for example, in the Regional Office, the Investment Centre, etc. As has been stated on earlier occasions we look to the FAO for impartial and expert advice among the myriad of proposals, suggestions and plans which arrive on our governmental desks.

We have, in the meantime, also begun more intensive consultations with FAO Technical Units to elaborate an increased reaction on the part of FAO in response to our contribution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si ningún otro delegado desea intervenir, le pido al señor Hjort que haga uso de la palabra.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I just want to make a follow-up to the comments from Estonia. The revised UN formula takes into account some of the concerns that have been expressed. You will note that for countries such as Estonia and others in similar circumstances, the percentage contribution will decrease significantly over the next few years.

Mr Owens is prepared to explain how the scale of contributions is adopted, in response to the question from France.

E. OWENS (Director, Financial Services Division): In response to the question asked by the delegate from France, the UN scale is adjusted by the difference in membership between the two organizations. At this date there are 18 members of the United Nations who are not members of FAO and there are three members of FAO who are not members of the United Nations. Therefore, by taking the UN scale for those 18 members and obtaining from the UN a probable scale for the three members who are not members of the United Nations, we distribute that amount of contribution over the remaining members of the Organization who are either not at the maximum contribution level of 25 percent or the minimum contribution level of 0.01 percent. It is a very simple formula and I will be glad to sit down and go over it with you at any time.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias señor Owens ¿Alguna otra observación por parte de los delegados? Si no desean intervenir podríamos concluir diciendo, respecto del Tema 18.2, que el Consejo tomó nota del informe del Comité de Finanzas en sus párrafos 3.5-3.10, como aparece en el documento CL 108/14 y ratificó el enfoque prudente del Director General en la gestión de los recursos durante el bienio 1994-95.

En lo que se refiere al Tema 18.3: Escala de Cuotas para 1996-97, el Consejo tomó nota del documento CL 108/14, párrafos 3.52-3.55 y que la FAO había seguido desde 1955 la escala de cuotas correspondiente a las Naciones Unidas, ratificada en 1955 y luego en 1975 y en 1983.

Finalmente que el Consejo tomó nota de que la Escala de Cuotas de la FAO propuesta para los años 1996-97, se había basado directamente en aquella correspondiente a las Naciones Unidas, vigente durante el año 1995 y tal como había establecido la Asamblea General.

El Consejo recomendó que la Resolución que aparece en el párrafo 3.55 del informe del 81º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas se envíe a la Conferencia de octubre para decisión.

Bien, señores delegados, con esto concluye la discusión del Tema 18 y como yo les había advertido esta mañana era mi intención pasar de inmediato al tratamiento del Tema 12 de nuestra agenda que es: Colaboración dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y con otras organizaciones, incluido los resultados de la tercera sesión de la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible, que es un tema para información, documento CL 108/17, Sup. 1 y Sup.2.

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

- 12. Collaboration within the UN System and with Other Organizations including Outcome of the Third Session of CSD**
- 12. Collaboration au sein du système des Nations Unies et avec d'autres organisations, y compris les résultats de la troisième session de la Commission du développement durable**
- 12. La colaboración dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y con otras Organizaciones, incluyendo los resultados del tercer período de sesiones de la Comisión sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible.**

J.S. CAMARA (Director, Office for External Relations, ODG): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, Members of the Council. This is a standing item on the Agenda of the Council, as well as the Conference, and its main purpose is to keep us, the Members of the Council, informed of those developments, both within the UN System and outside, which have implications on the work of FAO.

FAO collaboration with the UN System and with other organizations covers a very broad spectrum of activities and subjects, and some of these have been dealt with in separate items on our Agenda, such as those items read to the last meeting of COAG, COFO and COFI. For your consideration of this item, you have available three documents, CL 108/17, Sup. 1 and Sup. 2, the information of the relation between FAO and WTO is contained in Sup. 1, as it will be reported that the WTO only became operational in January 1995. Information on the outcome of the Third Session of the Commission on Southern Development was issued in Sup. 2, given that the decision took place after the submission of the document CL 108/17 for processing and printing.

Mr Chairman, cooperation among the three Rome-based agencies, in view of its breadth, could not be covered exhaustively in the document. Similarly, updating on this subject is necessarily selective. New initiatives include an FAO-IFAD meeting to discuss the preparation of National Action Programmes to combat desertification and drought, and to explore operational modalities for the implementation of the International Convention to Combat Desertification.

With regard to FAO Global Information and Early Warning System missions fielded jointly with WFP, eight missions have been undertaken in 1995 as of the end of May.

On the issue of African Economic Recovery and Development, I am pleased to inform the Council that, since the preparation of the document, the Steering Committee of the ACC, established under the Secretary-General's Special Initiative on Africa, held two sessions on 20 April and 31 May 1995, in New York.

Following the first meeting of the Steering Committee, a meeting of Working Group II on Sustainable Food Security was convened under the Chairmanship of FAO on 5 May 1995 at FAO Headquarters. A draft paper on Food Security and Sustainability Issues in Africa was prepared by the Working Group at that time and was subsequently reviewed by the Steering Committee at its second session. A second meeting of this Working Group is scheduled to be held on 20 June 1995, again in Rome, to revise the first draft of the aforementioned paper based on the recommendations of the Steering Committee.

A proposed timetable was endorsed by the Steering Committee at its second session and it is envisaged that the final report on the Initiative would be submitted to the Administrative Committee on Coordination in October of this year.

On the Agenda for Development: Turning from Rome to New York, the *ad hoc* open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development met from 5 to 26 May. The Working Group had before it a compendium summarizing the outcome of major UN Conferences and other international agreements concluded since 1990. Its work focused on a structure or outline for the Agenda. Development of agriculture, industry and the services sector is currently included in the section entitled "Economic Development" under the heading "Policy Framework including Means of Implementation". The Working Group is due to meet again from 28 August to 8 September. The UN Secretariat is to prepare a compilation of all views received by governments and work groups as well as a synthesis text. FAO hopes that its input will be sought on that part of the Agenda dealing with the development of agriculture.

Coming to the International Conferences, I will state that the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development will be discussed at ECOSOC during the Coordination Segment and the High-Level Segment on Operational Activities. The Coordination Segment will focus on coordinated follow-up by the UN System and more integrated implementation of the results of the major international conferences. The High-Level Segment, concerned with operational activities, will concentrate on implementation of the action programmes adopted by these two conferences. ECOSOC is expected to provide guidance regarding cross-sectoral coordination.

FAO has been fully involved in UNFPA-organized initiatives for follow-up to the Cairo Conference on Population and Development, including workshops for the preparation of guidelines for Resident Coordinators on implementation of the Programme of Action.

With regard to preparations for UN 4th World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, FAO continues to seek to ensure that the issues and concerns regarding women in rural areas are taken fully into account in the final output of the Conference: the Platform for Action. It has now been agreed that a special event on rural women will be coordinated by FAO with participation of 11 other UN organizations, including IFAD, WFP and the World Bank, as well as several NGOs.

At the regional and sub-regional level, I would like to state that, with regard to the cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, this is a wide-ranging and dynamic process which continues to evolve. It will undoubtedly be facilitated in the Caribbean area by the establishment of the new FAO Sub-Regional Office.

While it would be impossible to provide a complete update on cooperative activities in the region in my introductory statement, I am pleased to provide several examples of activities which are additional to those mentioned in the document.

The Joint Programme on Eradication of *Amblyomma Variegatum*, commonly known as "bont tick" in CARICOM member countries, is still on-going. FAO-IICA joint activities were also undertaken in the areas of market development, and women in development. Regarding the latter, national training courses and a sub-regional workshop were jointly organized. I am also pleased to announce that FAO and IICA will co-finance a Directory of Colleges of Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. Yesterday, I had the chance to discuss cooperation with my counterpart, the Director of External Relations of IICA, who I hope is in the room. Cooperation thus continues to advance, though further advances are sought.

Exchange of information, with the aim of establishing a regional programme on plant germplasm and a project on biotechnology and food security, is being pursued with the Latin American Economic System's Action Committee on Latin American Cooperation and Consultation on Plant Genetic Resources. Activities on genetic resources and agro-industrial development are also to be initiated with the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

Mr Chairman, FAO-WTO relations are still in an embryonic state. FAO has attended a number of meetings convened by various WTO Committees *on an ad hoc* basis, as a matter of observership of international intergovernmental organizations with WTO is pending a decision by the WTO General Council. The FAO Conference will be informed of any further developments at its next Session.

Finally, concerning the Third Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, I would like to inform the Council that ECOSOC at its resumed organizational Session in New York on 1 June, formally approved the establishment of an open-ended *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. The Council also authorized its bureau to decide on a date, late in June, for a brief organizational meeting of the Panel in order to set the dates for its first session. I understand that the Council addressed the matter of the Panel and there is a discussion of the report of COFO.

Mr Chairman, I, of course, stand ready to provide to Members of the Council any additional information and answer any questions which they may have.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Camara por su información amplia que nos ha proporcionado al introducir este tema. A propósito, quiero felicitarle a usted, también, por esta nueva posición como director de la Oficina de Relaciones Externas de la FAO, una vez que dejó usted la Dirección de la Oficina de Enlace de la FAO ante las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, aunque el tema es para información, desde luego ustedes están invitados a hacer observaciones al respecto. Les pregunto, ¿hay alguna delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra?

Canadá, Reino Unido, Japón, México, Bangladesh, Francia, Alemania y Chile.

Comenzamos con la distinguida delegación de Canadá. Canadá tiene la palabra.

Alan AMEY (Canada): After many years of addressing this issue at FAO meetings, Canada has been very pleased at the last two Council meetings to welcome the Director-General's intention to expand FAO's partnership within and outside the United Nations System. His conception of the FAO as part of a larger and integrated multilateral effort, to which each participant contributes according to its particular comparative advantages, is one with which Canada can strongly associate.

It is in this context that we welcome the further evidence in this document of cooperation with regional organizations in the Americas, including IICA. Canada strongly supports this sort of collaboration as do we appreciate the support and the range of initiatives for cooperation, harmonization and mutual assistance within the region itself. The FAO-IICA model of partnership, in particular, merits emulation elsewhere. We believe it is an expression of the recognition that in an area of down-sizing and resource constraints it is wasteful and counterproductive for agencies to be working independently on the same issues.

Mr Chairman, we find the extent of FAO involvement in the preparations for and follow-up to several international conferences most impressive. This is indeed the role we would expect of a Specialized UN Agency in meetings of very comprehensive and cross-sectoral subject matters. This leads us to wonder, however, to what extent the proposed World Food Summit, only 18 months away, is already on the world map. Are the UN and other multi-lateral organizations gearing up to participate in a manner similar to what FAO is doing as described in this document? Is the World Food Summit already on the agenda of ECOSOC, the General Assembly, the World Health Assembly, the World Trade Organization and government bodies of the UN operational programmes? Have any of these bodies expressed their support or views regarding the World Food Summit? Mr Chairman, it would be useful to have a section of the document for the next Council devoted to this aspect of inter-agency collaboration.

We welcome the interest of FAO in the work of the new World Trade Organization. There will be a need for close cooperation between FAO and WTO, especially where this is specifically referenced in the WTO agreements, as is the case with the role of CODEX in setting international standards for food products. The issue of formal observer status for the various organizations requesting such status in the WTO is still being discussed informally among delegations. Canada is confident that the guidelines and criteria for observers that will be adopted by the WTO General Council will allow the FAO to be an observer in the relevant WTO bodies and committees.

Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom would like to confine itself to four aspects of this paper: cooperation with the World Food Programme, Emergencies, the Agenda for Development and the Cairo Population Conference. Turning to cooperation with the World Food Programme, we welcome continuing collaboration between FAO and WFP, as set out in paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 9, and particularly joint food supply assessment missions. Also, the joint FAO/IFAD/WFP activity set out in paragraphs 22 and 24. We note the proposed WFP paper for the World Food Summit in paragraph 10 on the use of food aid for the promotion of food security. However, it is important to recognize the lack of access to food linked to poverty and that food security, i.e., lack of access to food, should be addressed primarily through poverty reduction programmes. This point is relevant also in connection with the Director-General's Special Programme on Food Production, as outlined in paragraph 11. The proposed IFAD paper for the World Food Summit on agricultural investment should provide welcome additional focus. The paper also includes numbers of separate references to work on food security: the *ad hoc* working group on Household Food Security (paragraph 22), the Working Group on Sustainable Food Security (paragraph 38), the *ad hoc* Working Group on the Agenda for Development (paragraphs 46 to 49). We think it is important to ensure that adequate coordination, avoiding all duplication, applies, and that bodies mentioned take account of parallel multi-disciplinary World Bank studies.

In relation to the work done by FAO and the World Food Programme on emergencies, we would like to see more concentration by FAO on an input into consideration of the relief-rehabilitation continuum in emergencies. FAO frequently complains that it is unable through the DHA Coordinated Appeal process to raise funds or to be high on the list for attracting funds during emergencies. We feel that FAO has a greater case to make in explaining the impact of emergencies on the agricultural sector and we would like to see more work done on this in partnership with the World Food Programme.

Turning to the Agenda for Development, it is now being considered by a Working Group of the General Assembly. They will call on whatever sources of information or advice they require. We see no need for FAO Council or any other part of the UN System to lobby the Working Group. The Working Group should be left to reach its own conclusions without being distracted by special pleading. As it is part of the General Assembly, there is no need to remind the Working Group of the contents of its own resolutions. For example, 49/103.

Finally, turning to the follow-up to the Cairo Conference, we welcome FAO's recognition of the importance of the International Conference on Population and Development and the close relationship between population and sustainable development. FAO should concentrate on its areas of comparative advantage, however, and we do not favour an expansion of FAO's work in areas where other UN Organizations lead, nor any increased access to UNFPA funds.

K. SHIMIZU (Japan): My delegation is of the view that the UN System is performing many activities in various fields in order to respond to extensive requests from its member countries, and requests to the UN System will in future increase and become more varied. In this context, cooperation between UN Organizations is an important area to be developed further in light of the importance of avoiding duplication and of using its limited resources most effectively. Japan wishes this Organization to further promote cooperation with other organizations in response to the extensive requests to FAO. My delegation appreciates the efforts FAO is making in cooperation with the international development agencies, which should be further developed with a view to making effective use of FAO's accumulated expertise. In particular, Mr Chairman, the close cooperation with the Rome-based organizations, such as WFP and IFAD, is important for the development of food and agriculture, through collaboration on agricultural development projects and FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS).

Mr Chairman, I would like to touch briefly upon a couple of points in relation to WTO. My delegation feels that food security at global and national levels is becoming a more and more important issue in the midst of apprehension over the rapid increase in the world's population, and environmental degradation and intense regional conflicts. In the light of the said growing importance of food security, liberalization of agricultural trade will not necessarily ensure food security and may be a threat to the food security of food importing countries, developed or developing. In this regard, I must stress the following two points as crucial when considering the issue of agricultural trade and food security: first, that Article 12 of the Agricultural Agreement reached in the Uruguay Round negotiations be respected; second, that food exporting countries should avoid actions which prohibit or limit food exports, which otherwise demerit the food security of food importing countries. There are, of course, other areas in which FAO can play an important role, for example, agriculture and environment, sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Finally, I would like to turn to cooperation with CSD, in particular, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Forests established as a result of the third CSD Session. The Panel needs personnel and financial support from UN Organizations, including FAO. The work of the Panel is important and relevant to FAO and will have a great impact on FAO's future forestry-related activities. My delegation therefore considers it important for FAO to now take the necessary actions to contribute to the Panel by budgeting for support measures even in the current budget and also in the next Programme of Work and Budget.

José ROBLES AGUDLAR (México): Gracias señor Presidente, queremos comentar de manera breve cuatro puntos del Informe. Primeramente, deseamos expresar nuestra satisfacción por la información que se incluye en el documento en relación con las relaciones con las organizaciones regionales y subregionales de América Latina; creemos que ello refleja un incremento en el dinamismo en estas relaciones. Por otro lado, nos gustaría comentar el hecho de que nos hubiera agradado ver en la parte relativa a las conferencias, información concerniente a la Cumbre mundial sobre la alimentación que también mencionara la distinguida Representación de Canadá, así como en relación a la Conferencia internacional sobre los recursos fitogenéticos.

Por otra parte, estimamos que tal vez sería conveniente considerar la posibilidad de que estos informes incluyeran un apartado y una sección en relación con las relaciones de la Organización con las organizaciones no gubernamentales a la luz de la creciente importancia que esas organizaciones han tomado en los últimos años.

Finalmente, también queremos expresar nuestra satisfacción por la información que incluye el documento en lo concerniente a las relaciones de la FAO con las instituciones financieras internacionales. Muchas gracias señor Presidente.

M. Akhtar ALI (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, the Council document prepared for this item on the Agenda is, as usual, very informative and presents some important developments within the UN System, particularly those relevant to the work of FAO. FAO, as expected, has been actively participating in various initiatives of the UN System aimed at alleviating rural poverty and hunger.

The document provides for the first time a substantial coverage of activities and initiatives relating to FAO's cooperation with WFP and IFAD under a separate section, as requested by the Council at its last Session. We have noted with interest the variety of administrative, financial and technical services provided by FAO to the World Food Programme. In this connection, we would like to emphasize that the costs of providing such services should be maintained at a competitive level so that the WFP management can take full advantage of the required services available in FAO. We are pleased to note the increasing collaboration between FAO and WFP in activities concerning enhancement of food production and promoting food security in the food-insecure developing countries. WFP has the potential to play a significant role in the implementation of FAO's Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in low-income food-deficit countries and we hope that a strengthened collaboration in this respect will be pursued.

We are encouraged to note a significant growth in cooperative activities between FAO and IFAD in 1994, which is reflected, among others, in the increase of 33 percent over the previous year in the number of operations undertaken during 1994. We are happy to see the expanding range of collaborative efforts these

two specialized agencies have initiated by drawing on each other's expertise and area of comparative advantage towards achieving the shared objective of improving food security. We hope IFAD will also be fruitfully associated in the implementation of the Director-General's Special Programme on Food Production in LIFDC. Both IFAD and WFP are well placed to provide substantial inputs to the ongoing preparations for the World Food Summit. Given their complementary mandates, we hope cooperation among FAO, WFP and IFAD will continue to grow in the coming years.

At the last Session of the Council, we welcomed the process of setting an Agenda for Development initiated in pursuance of the UN General Assembly Resolution 48/166 and the Director-General's statement at ECOSOC highlighting the key imperatives in international cooperation and development, with rural poor people being major beneficiaries. We are pleased to note that, following the decision of the General Assembly at its 49th Session to establish an *ad hoc* Open-ended Working Group to "elaborate further an action-oriented comprehensive Agenda for Development", the Working Group has already held its first meeting in February 1995 to consider appropriate modalities for finalizing the agenda.

We agree, as set out in paragraphs 48-49 of the document under discussion, that agricultural development and food security must be recognized as the foremost elements in the formulation of an Agenda for Development. We hope the Working Group during its subsequent deliberations will also recognize these priority elements and take them into account when preparing the agenda.

FAO has taken a number of important steps as a follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in September 1994 and the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995. We hope that it will continue to collaborate closely with the United Nations Agencies towards implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action at the World Summit for Social Development. We are also pleased to note that there have been some concrete initiatives of FAO's in the preparatory work for the 4th World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995. These initiatives, Mr Chairman, include assistance to 47 Member Nations and we hope it will continue to assist the national preparatory activities of the member countries for the Summit.

Regarding FAO's collaboration with the World Trade Organization, both the FAO and WTO are involved in international trade and furthering development of the world economy. The FAO Conference at its last session expressed its appreciation for the support given by the Organization to developing countries throughout the Uruguay Round of multi-level trade negotiations and expressed cooperation with other international organizations in the area of commodities and trade. We hope that FAO will play its due part in supporting the new international trade regime brought about by the completion of the Uruguay Round and by extending cooperation to the WTO.

Regarding FAO's future relations with the World Trade Organization we fully support the Director-General's efforts to obtain observer status for FAO in various bodies of the WTO and we hope the ongoing consultations in Geneva in this regard will lead to a satisfactory outcome.

Jean-Paul RTVAUD (France): Ma délégation fera sur ce point de l'ordre du jour une déclaration très brève principalement relative aux suites de la troisième session de la Commission du développement durable. Comme d'autres au sein de ce Conseil, mais aussi dans d'autres enceintes, nous avons à maintes reprises répété que la coopération entre les organisations est une nécessité absolue. A défaut de relations et d'échanges, aucun organisme ne reste vivant bien longtemps. Il est clair qu'aucune organisation ne détient à elle seule la solution de problèmes aussi complexes et de nature aussi multidisciplinaire que les questions d'environnement et de développement durable.

Nous avons un exemple de ce qui doit être fait dans ce domaine avec la mise en place du Groupe intergouvernemental sur les forêts. Nous avons indiqué hier, lors de la discussion sur le rapport du COFO, que nous attendions des indications sur les dispositions que l'Organisation allait prendre au plus vite pour participer très activement à ce Groupe intergouvernemental. Le Secrétariat nous a donné un début de réponse sur ce point mais je souhaite dire ici que le type de solution établi dans le domaine forestier pourrait être une solution à utiliser également dans d'autres domaines.

Ma délégation, comme beaucoup d'autres ici, considère que les débats relatifs à la question de savoir quelle organisation doit, dans tel ou tel domaine, occuper une position de chef de file ne sont pas les débats que nous devons avoir aujourd'hui. La coordination est indispensable; elle doit conduire à l'action en commun et au plus vite.

Comme l'ont indiqué avant moi plusieurs délégations - et notamment celles du Canada, du Mexique et du Bangladesh - nous attendons de voir ce qui sera entrepris sur ce plan dans le cadre de la préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996, notamment dans les relations avec le PAM, avec le FIDA, mais aussi au-delà du système des Nations Unies avec, par exemple, le groupe consultatif pour la recherche agricole internationale. Nous encourageons vivement le Directeur général à aller de l'avant dans cette direction.

Ms Gönke ROSCHER (Germany): My delegation has only a few remarks to make on Document CL 108/17. First of all we wish to thank the Secretariat for having included in the documents a specific section on cooperation among the Rome-based organizations as requested by Member States at the 107th Session of the Council.

We regret, however, that the section of this document about FAO's cooperation with WFP focuses more on well known legal and constitutional aspects rather than on matters of substance and their cooperation, for instance, or progress achieved in ensuring greater collaboration in relief operations or joint assessments of emergency needs.

With regard to the constitutional framework of the relationship between FAO and WFP in paragraph 4 of the document, WFP is described by the FAO Secretariat as "a joint subsidiary body of the United Nations and FAO". This might not be incorrect *per se*; however this does not quite reflect the actual situation. WFP's new General Regulations since 1991 state that the Programme is undertaken, and I quote "jointly by the United Nations and FAO in cooperation with other interested UN Agencies and appropriate intergovernmental bodies".

More recently the General Assembly in its Resolution 48/162 speaks of an "autonomous joint organ" of both. In our view, the latter terms reflect more appropriately WFP's newly defined role in the United Nations System.

Document CL 108/17 states that many of the services which FAO provides to WFP (as described in paragraph 5/11) are services against payment by WFP and that there is a 40 percent fall in the reimbursements by WFP to FAO in 1994.

Referring, for example, to the last point listed in paragraph 5, "documentation services including translation and production", I wonder whether this fall is not due to the lack of competitiveness of FAO's services, or could the Secretariat give us any other explanation for the decision of WFP to rely more on the private sector?

Mr Chairman, my delegation trusts that the Secretariat will provide us with more substantial information about the joint activities of FAO and WFP especially on those to which each party provides its own resources. In this context, however, we welcome the section of the document on FAO's cooperation with IFAD which gives us a very substantial picture on the content of their relationship.

Pedro MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile): Mi delegación desea, igualmente, hacer unos breves comentarios al documento que ha tenido a bien someternos la Secretaría y, en términos generales, quisiéramos señalar nuestra conformidad por este documento, en cuanto refleja un esfuerzo de coordinación, especialmente en Roma, con los organismos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas que se ocupan de la agricultura y de la alimentación.

Quisiera someter una consideración para ser tomada en cuenta por los responsables de estas organizaciones, y que apunta a una mejor coordinación y trabajo complementario en el caso de Roma, no sólo en lo que se refiere a aspectos formales, legales, reglamentarios o de servicio, sino también a un esquema de

complementación en términos de compartir enfoques comunes en lo que afecta a políticas y estrategias de desarrollo a nivel de país, a nivel de subregión, y a nivel de región. En otras palabras, señor Presidente, se trata de llegar a un esquema de coordinación o complementación de actividades o de proyectos y dirigir el esfuerzo a compartir estrategias y políticas de desarrollo a nivel de cada país. Creo que eso requiere, ciertamente, ciertos arreglos institucionales como, por ejemplo, identificar claramente en cada institución los responsables de los países y de las regiones o las unidades responsables de países y regiones, y al mismo tiempo, dar un enfoque programático de asistencia técnica a nivel de cada país, subregión y/o región.

Al hacer esta propuesta o consideración, señor Presidente, distinguidos delegados, la formulamos en el entendido de que existe una experiencia acumulada por cada uno de estos organismos que se puede compartir y, ciertamente, ayudaría a una mayor eficiencia del trabajo de cada una de estas organizaciones. Sin embargo, Señor Presidente, a nivel local, queremos insistir en la necesidad de fortalecer los esquemas de coordinación entre estas tres agencias que están ubicadas en Roma, así como con otros organismos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas y de la Cooperación Internacional.

En segundo lugar, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación quisiera expresar su conformidad con el planteamiento que se hace en el párrafo 50 y que se relaciona con los elementos que podría tener el Programa de Desarrollo para ser considerados por el grupo de trabajo.

Creemos, señor Presidente, que las consideraciones planteadas en los números 48 y 49 son pertinentes, y si esta Organización se ha propuesto, y sus Estados Miembros así lo hemos acordado, celebrar una Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación a nivel de Jefes de Estado justamente para resaltar la importancia de la agricultura y la alimentación en las estrategias de desarrollo para mitigar y aliviar la pobreza, creemos, señor Presidente, que el hecho de que se puedan incluir también este tipo de consideraciones en documentos oficiales o programas oficiales del sistema de Naciones Unidas, le da más fuerza a este propósito común que hemos acordado.

Por último, señor Presidente, quisiera resaltar la importancia que nuestra Delegación asigna a la estrechacolaboración entre las agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, particularmente las que se encuentran en Roma, en los preparativos de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, como ha sido señalado por distintas delegaciones. De la misma forma resaltamos la especial prioridad que nuestra delegación asigna a la estrecha colaboración entre la FAO y la Organización Mundial de Comercio.

Ms Lisa Bobbie SCHREIBER HUGHES (United States of America): Thank you, Mr Chairman. The United States Delegation welcomes such a comprehensive overview of FAO's collaborative activities. We especially appreciate such a full report of FAO cooperation with fellow Rome-based food agencies, the World Food Programme, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Regarding the FAO contribution to the agenda for development, however, as referred to paragraphs 48 and 49 of the document submitted for our information, the United States must express some reservations. While we recognize that rural agricultural people, especially the rural poor, should be major beneficiaries of an agenda for development and that agricultural development and food security should be an important step in the development process, we cannot agree with FAO that it should in all instances be the predominant first step. In some countries, for example, sustainable management of mega-cities may be of equal importance to sustainable agricultural development.

It is our understanding that the agenda for development is not sector-specific but more holistic in its approach. At national levels we believe the agenda should promote bottom-up, environmentally sound, country-driven, market-oriented, democratic development planning and implementation that encompasses all relevant sectors. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

My apologies Mr Chairman and fellow delegations. I merely wish to add that finally, the United States Delegation would like to endorse the comments of the Delegation of Germany as regards WFP, and I thank you for your indulgence.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): Thank you, Mr Chairman. First of all, on behalf of the Indonesian delegation I would like to express our appreciation and thanks for such information on FAO collaboration within the UN Agencies and other organizations including the outcome of the third session of the CSD contained in document CL 108/17. We welcome the efforts made by FAO for the close cooperation with WTO in order to support the interest of each Member's participation in the work of WTO in the future, thus to give more benefit to the Members.

Mr Chairman, while we are happy to note the good progress made by FAO in cooperation with UN Agencies and other organizations, including NGOs, we also request FAO to make close cooperation with the Non-Aligned Movement and Group 77, in order to support the southside cooperation as well as to cooperate with Group 7 of the industrial countries in order to support the south-north cooperation.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would be pleased also to get some information on the cooperation between FAO and IPEC and ASEAN as well as other regional and sub-regional organizations in the Asia and Pacific regions. Thank you very much.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Australia has strongly supported collaboration within the UN System and has registered this a number of times in FAO fora. This time, Mr Chairman, we would like to confine our comments to some brief remarks concerning the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Australia thanks FAO for its comprehensive input to the Third Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. We consider that that Commission made considerable progress on a number of key issues at its third session and the Commission has consolidated its role as a predominant UN body for encouraging international support for the implementation of Agenda 21 on Sustainable Development.

In particular, my delegation considers that the Commission on Sustainable Development's decisions in relation to the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental panel on forests and the link between sustainable development and liberalizing international trade in agriculture will be particularly important. We look forward to a substantive contribution by FAO to the work of the intergovernmental panel.

Mme. Régine DE CLERC (Belgique): Je voudrais au sujet de ce point ne dire que deux mots.

Tout d'abord, la collaboration au sein du système des Nations Unies ne doit pas se limiter à des accords de coopération et à des déclarations de bonnes intentions. Au moment où le problème des ressources devient crucial pour la majeure partie des organisations des Nations Unies, cette collaboration doit être effective sur le terrain. Cela permettrait de faire de sérieuses économies et cela éviterait les doubles emplois. Nous pensons que les bureaux régionaux du PNUD pourraient jouer un rôle pour assurer cette coopération sur le terrain.

Au sujet de la documentation qui nous a été soumise, je voudrais relever un point particulier. Dans le document CL 108/17, et notamment au paragraphe 48, on dit que ce sont les plus pauvres des pauvres qui devraient être les principaux bénéficiaires d'un agenda de développement.

Nous souscrivons totalement à ce concept et nous voudrions aussi que la FAO le mette en pratique, notamment au moment de l'élaboration des programmes spéciaux qui sont en discussion maintenant et que nous discuterons encore.

Prabhu Dayal MEENA (India): Thank you, Mr Chairman. My delegation is pleased to note that since the inception of WFP, FAO Nutrition Division has developed a close cooperation with the World Food Programme in providing nutritional advice on food rations, mainly in the context of development projects and emergency situations.

My delegation welcomes the increasing assistance extended by FAO and WFP for closer linkages between food aid and technical assistance and investment. The document mentions that an area where cooperation between FAO and WFP could be further strengthened in the Director General's special programme on food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries. My delegation supports this idea.

My delegation appreciates FAO's joint efforts with IFAD in assisting member countries to formulate investment projects for IFAD financing. As a result, during 1994 we are happy to note, Sir, that nine investment projects were approved for financing by IFAD. Finally, my delegation supports the white helmet initiative in the area of emergency humanitarian assistance as mentioned in the document.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Algún otro delegado u observador desea hacer uso de la palabra? Entonces, me voy a permitir pasar la voz a los observadores. Tiene la palabra el observador de Rumania.

Gheorghe APOSTOIU (Observateur de la Roumanie): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, d'avoir bien voulu m'accorder la parole et je voudrais aussi vous adresser nos félicitations pour votre manière de conduire nos travaux.

Je voudrais exprimer l'accord de la Roumanie pour l'initiative de notre Organisation concernant les futures relations avec l'Organisation mondiale du commerce.

Mon pays, qui a participé activement aux négociations d'Uruguay, a beaucoup apprécié l'activité prodigieuse de la FAO pendant ces négociations. C'est pourquoi la Roumanie appuie l'initiative de notre Organisation pour obtenir le statut d'observateur auprès de la nouvelle Organisation mondiale du commerce.

Partageant des connaissances pratiquement analogues, les deux organisations seront en mesure, nous en sommes sûrs, de collaborer de manière positive. Nous espérons que l'initiative au niveau du Sous-Comité des questions institutionnelles, procédurales et juridiques concernant l'octroi de statut d'observateur aux organisations intergouvernementales connaîtra une issue heureuse et que le conseil général va adopter bientôt une décision favorable à la FAO à cet égard.

Moussa Bocar LY (Observateur du Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi à travers vous de féliciter le nouveau Directeur des relations extérieures, Monsieur Camara. Nous sommes sûrs que son expérience onusienne ne manquera pas de se traduire efficacement dans le travail qui est d'ailleurs sous nos yeux.

Nous nous félicitons de la coopération de la FAO avec les organisations des Nations Unies et d'autres organisations, notamment les organisations basées à Rome, et nous relevons avec satisfaction les mentions qui sont faites de notre continent africain, car le 1er juin dernier était célébrée, ici, la journée de l'Afrique auprès des organisations internationales à vocation alimentaire et agricole.

Il n'a échappé à personne que l'Afrique mérite l'appui de la communauté internationale pour sortir de la crise qu'elle traverse, malgré les efforts qu'elle ne cesse de consentir dans le domaine de la libéralisation et de l'ajustement. Donc nous voyons avec intérêt les mentions au nouvel ordre du jour des Nations Unies, pour le développement de l'Afrique dans les années 90.

Nous souhaiterions toutefois mettre en garde contre les erreurs du passé qui ont fait que le premier programme pour l'Afrique 1986-1990 n'a pas eu le succès escompté parce que la Communauté internationale dans ses différentes composantes n'a pas apporté l'appui concret qu'il fallait, et nous espérons que la FAO de son côté ne tombera pas dans cet écueil.

S'agissant du Fonds de diversification pour les produits africains, nous nous demandons si ce n'était pas le lieu de parler de la CNUCED. Nous pensons que c'est là une organisation des Nations Unies avec laquelle la FAO gagnerait à renforcer sa collaboration.

Egalement, nous appuyons les efforts de la FAO pour obtenir le statut d'observateur au niveau de l'OMC, et je crois que les différents comités dont les rapports ont été examinés ont montré combien était nécessaire le statut d'observateur pour permettre à la FAO d'apporter l'assistance aux pays membres, notamment les pays importateurs de produits alimentaires. Nous avons vu que lors du Comité des produits, le représentant de l'OMC était présent parmi nous et a beaucoup contribué aux débats. Nous pensons que la réciprocité devait conduire à ce que la FAO puisse le plus rapidement possible obtenir ce statut d'observateur. Je crois que notre Conseil pourrait à ce sujet lancer un appel pour appuyer les démarches de la FAO pour obtenir ce statut d'observateur auprès de l'OMC.

Nous pensons que les initiatives du Directeur général de la FAO sont bien plus amples que ce qui nous est fourni dans ce document, car nous savons les efforts qu'il ne cesse de déployer dans le cadre du partenariat avec la Banque mondiale, la Banque islamique de développement, la Banque africaine de développement, et d'autres encore. Donc nous pensons qu'il serait bon de refléter ces efforts dans le cadre des documents qui nous sont présentés.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le voy a pedir al señor Hjort que haga las aclaraciones necesarias.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I will cover several of the points but will rely upon my colleagues to elaborate and fill in on any points that I do not cover.

First, with respect to the comments about the World Food Summit, I recall that you have already had your debate on that Item. I would invite review of Council document CL 108/12 in order to see the list of organizations that have been formally contacted to collaborate in the preparation of the technical papers. In summary, that of course includes all the main financing organizations, the World Food Programme, IFAD, UNEP, WHO, UNFPA and maybe others that I have forgotten. I do not have the list in front of me at the moment but I believe that when you look at it you will see that it is a rather comprehensive list of those that would and should be involved and who have a contribution to make to the documentation for the Summit.

I would point out also, in response to the comments made, that I believe the Council has agreed to recommend that the Conference adopt a resolution with respect to the World Food Summit, and that will, of course, be the official confirmation of the Summit.

With respect to comments about the World Food Programme, and in particular those that referred to parenthood, I would note that you have Agenda item 11.3 to take up which, of course, calls for changes in the General Regulations of the World Food Programme to implement the General Assembly Resolution.

I would also note, though, that we do in fact have a special relationship with the World Food Programme; we have since it was established. Today, for any large-scale emergency food operation, joint approval between the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO is required. If I remember the statistics correctly, of the total amount of emergency operations in 1994, the joint operations accounted for 96 percent of the total value. The document mentions our close collaboration on food supply and food needs assessments; this programme works very well. A few years ago, not many, WFP was formally invited to become partners and make this a joint assessment activity.

The part that perhaps has not been mentioned and is not too well known, except to those who participate in meetings here in Rome, is with respect to humanitarian matters. We also collaborate in connection with our relief activities and we both collaborate with the non-governmental organizations in those activities. In our case, our main activities are the purchasing and delivery or moving on to the country and on to distribution points, seeds, essential inputs, vaccines and so forth, almost always with funds that you make available to us. The actual distribution of those items to the producers themselves is almost always in the hands of our NGO partners. The moving of the commodities frequently is by WFP. As you well know, the World Food Programme has the reputation in the entire UN System as being the leader on logistics. It is advisable for us to seek to capitalize at every opportunity on this expertise that they have, and they have been quite willing to make available space in their trucks and transport to move essential inputs.

We also of course have for years worked very actively with them on their projects. We lead a very significant number of their formulation missions for projects and we participate in all those that cover matters which fall within our mandate. There was reference to the fact that there had been a 40 percent decrease. Those of you who have been following the WFP very carefully recently will know that they have had a devastating reduction in projects as emergencies have crowded out development. This is in large part the reason for that substantial decrease in assistance.

There was a specific question about publications and why they are no longer using FAO's Publications and Translations Services. The fact is that they did find a cheaper source on the outside.

There was a question about World Bank studies. I just want to note for the record that it is the normal practice that when the World Bank engages in studies of matters that fall within the mandate of FAO, they usually send to us drafts for review and comment. We tend to do the same thing for matters that fall within our mandate where we are doing the study and where we know that they have certain expertise. This, of course, is a continuing process which covers the range of activities in which we are involved.

There was a comment about the continuum. This is a matter very close and dear to my own heart, having overall responsibility for humanitarian activities and being a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs. I would simply recall a most recent meeting with the donors here in Rome when we addressed the issue and received very positive comments from the representatives of the donor community on how we might improve assessments and the appeal documents. Just last night I signed letters to those who participated, and some others who were not here but are in the humanitarian community of interest, to give them a summary record of that meeting.

There was a comment suggesting that there should have been deeper coverage of the NGOs. You will recall that in previous such documents there was in fact greater coverage of NGOs. We, at your guidance, have been trying to make these documents as brief, succinct and to the point as possible, but I am sure that Mr Camara has listened carefully to this point.

There was a comment about UNFPA. Here I simply want to point out that essentially all our capability on population matters is funded by UNFPA. That is so with respect to the Regional Offices for which we provide technical back-stopping support as well as all but one or maybe two officers here at Headquarters.

The only other comment that I would make on UNFPA is that, as you know, the Cairo Conference was on Population and Development, so now UNFPA has to deal with the question of the linkages between population and development. They have been in contact and we are working with them to try to think through the implications of that significant modification and what it means for organizations such as FAO. It is obvious that it means an increase in resources, so we will look forward for your support tomorrow for additional resources to implement that programme.

There were several comments about the Forestry Panel and Mr Harcharik can respond to those. There seemed to be an impression that maybe we were not doing anything in response to that decision. I simply want to assure you that we are moving. We have been in contact with the embryo Secretariat, we are taking action now and we wish to find the most cost-effective way of providing support to that Secretariat. You will have noted in the document before you that there is a very substantial overlap between the work of the Panel and the Programme of Work under the four major programmes of Forestry. That, of course, is to the advantage of both FAO and the Panel, and we will seek to capitalize on those advantages.

There were some comments with respect to IFAD, I will simply note again for the record that we do have a good collaborative relationship in terms of preparing investment projects for them. We worked with them in very great detail this last year as they have been revising their approach and re-looking at the entire project cycle. I have mentioned earlier that we are in communication with them in terms of participation in the preparation of documents for the World Food Summit.

WTO was mentioned by several. I want to start by expressing appreciation for the many letters that we have received in response to the Director-General's letter. Although his letter did not call for a response, a large number of you have written to assure him of support. I have not seen a single one of those responses that said

other than they would support the efforts to have observer status and I am pleased to report that it appears those efforts are starting to bear fruit.

There was a mention of the CGIAR system and its involvement, I believe, in the preparations of the World Food Summit. Mr Carsalade is very familiar with that system and represents the Organization in our partnership role with the CGIAR system. I would just recall that as recently as three hours ago the Director-General mentioned that he had a document from the TAC Secretariat where it was looking forward to research needs and was contemplating seeing if that could be up-dated to become another one of the supporting documents for the WFS.

Comments about the Agenda for Development and, in particular, paragraphs 48 and 49 attracted comments that in some ways were somewhat surprising. I wonder if the United States fully read the whole sentence or the last phrase of 49, "Agriculture development and food security must be recognized as the first step in the development process of the poorest countries". It was not saying everywhere irrespective of development status but I thought that would not be a sentence that would lead to anything other than very widespread support from the Council. Maybe we should have separated the key words and said that food security must be recognized as the priorities of priorities for all countries and that agricultural development must be recognized as the first step in the development process of the poorest countries.

There was a mention about white helmets. I would note that in connection with our humanitarian activities, relief activities, we are in contact. I do not believe we have used the first one yet, but we are in contact and hope to be able to make use of that programme. Those are the main points that I caught and I invite my colleagues to amplify and comment.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Hjort por sus amplias e interesantes aclaraciones.

Primero va a hablar el señor Harcharik. Por favor tiene usted la palabra.

David HARCHARIK (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): I would like to try to respond to the points raised about FAO's cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. Basically I can reiterate what I said yesterday and also reinforce what our Deputy Director-General has just said now, perhaps putting his remarks in my own words.

I think that we should understand that the FAO Committee on Forestry, the Ministerial Meeting on Forestry both very strongly urged FAO to cooperate with and support the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. This Council itself yesterday gave us very clear guidance on that and you have reiterated that again today. Even the CSD itself requested our collaboration. So I would like to assure you that we will support and collaborate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. We have an obligation to do so but beyond that we are Task Managers in the United Nations System on Forest so we have a responsibility to support the Panel and we will do so.

Now the UN has, as most of you know, a Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in New York, that is assisting the work of the Commission on sustainable development. It is that office, that department, that is trying to assist the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. We are in very close dialogue with that office. We have written to them and talked to them many times on the phone and we will be visiting with them personally again next week. We are trying very carefully to look at precisely how we can be helpful. As Mr Hjort has mentioned, many of the aspects of the terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Panel tie-in very closely with the work of FAO. We have done work on criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management and that is one of the terms of reference of the Panel. The Panel will work on forest resources assessment which as you know we have been doing for many years. There are other aspects of our work that are also complementary to the work of the Panel. So, we will work very closely with them to avoid duplication of effort and instead to develop the complementarity of our work, and we will try to reflect this in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium which we will be amending.

There are a number of things that we can do. We can organize meetings, we can produce technical studies and other things and we will be discussing this very closely with the UN. I think it is important that we understand that we would like the Panel to be successful. Its work must be professionally done and it must be cost-effective. This is an opportunity to build better partnerships in the UN System and an opportunity to speed the implementation of sustainable forest management, so we are anxious to work in a very collaborative way with the Panel and help it become successful.

J.S. CAMARA (Directeur, Bureau des relations extérieures): Je vais être assez bref car M. Hjort a déjà donné des informations complémentaires et a répondu à certaines questions.

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier les membres du Conseil et les observateurs qui ont fait des commentaires et également des suggestions dont nous avons pris bonne note. Nous continuerons à faire un rapport au Conseil sur notre coopération avec les organisations basées à Rome, à savoir le FIDA et le Programme alimentaire mondial. Nous présenterons à l'avenir dans notre rapport une section sur la coopération avec les organisations régionales qui se trouvent en Asie et au Pacifique et également en Afrique. Nous ferons rapport également, comme je l'ai déjà dit, à la Conférence de la FAO, de l'état d'avancement de nos opérations avec la nouvelle organisation, à savoir l'Organisation mondiale du commerce.

Avant de terminer et pour éviter tout malentendu, je vais évoquer le nouvel ordre du jour du développement en préparation actuellement à New York sur proposition du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et qui fait suite au premier document qu'il avait présenté et qui a été approuvé par l'Assemblée générale, à savoir le nouvel ordre du jour pour la paix. Ce document est un document global qui va regrouper les priorités et les stratégies pour les années à venir. Nous estimons que le problème de l'alimentation et de la culture, comme M. Hjort l'a souligné, est une des priorités pour les pays, notamment les pays en développement, et comme ce document va concerner des programmes sectoriels, on va parler de l'éducation, de la santé, de la nutrition et également du commerce, c'est pourquoi nous pensons que l'agriculture et l'alimentation ont le bon droit d'être présentes dans ce document qui sera un document important et qui sera adopté dans le cadre du cinquantième anniversaire des Nations Unies s'il est prêt à temps. Et pour donner de l'importance à cela c'est le président de l'Assemblée générale lui-même qui préside le groupe de travail assisté par deux autres ambassadeurs, à savoir celui du Bénin et de la Suède. Comme tenu de l'importance que les pays en développement attachent à l'alimentation nous avons estimé que les membres du Conseil pouvaient appuyer cette initiative de la FAO qui cadre bien avec la Conférence sur le sommet mondial. Nous pensons que les Etats Membres devraient prendre en considération, surtout au niveau global, les questions prioritaires qui concernent les activités de notre Organisation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Camara por sus aclaraciones.

Distinguidos delegados, si no hay ninguna otra observación por parte de ustedes, podríamos concluir este tema, que como he informado, lo era para información. No obstante, ustedes destacaron varios aspectos de las relaciones y enlaces de la FAO con otras organizaciones, los mismos que me voy a permitir resumir de la siguiente manera.

En primer lugar, el Consejo tomó nota con satisfacción de la gran variedad de actividades cooperativas que sostiene la FAO en diversos organismos internacionales como se describe en el documento CL 108/17. Se subrayó, en particular, la importancia de fomentar e intensificar dicha cooperación entre las organizaciones que tratan y se ocupan de los temas de agricultura y alimentación, con base en Roma; los sugirieron sobre una base de complementariedad de sus competencias. Se hizo referencia, en particular, al PMA y al FIDA y, se destacó que las actividades de asistencia técnica, inversión y ayuda alimentaria, respectivamente, que tratan estas organizaciones con sede en Roma, deben compatibilizarse y tal cooperación podría coadyuvar a resaltar la función en Roma como un centro de excelencia en la esfera de la alimentación y la agricultura. Resultó también importante la cooperación con el Instituto Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, en Roma, que forma parte del Grupo Consultivo de Investigaciones Agrícolas Internacionales.

Haciendo un comentario general, se subrayó la importancia de que la FAO establezca una plena colaboración y cooperación a todos los niveles de tal suerte que se vayan perfeccionando estas correlaciones y se evite la duplicación o yuxtaposición de funciones y actividades y que la Organización vaya afinándose hacia la selección de actividades en las que tenía una ventaja comparativa.

Se acogió con satisfacción que la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas reconociera la labor de la FAO, en cuanto que ésta considerara el tema relacionado con el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación en su Resolución 49/103, titulada alimentación y desarrollo de la agricultura. El Consejo recomendó que se pusieran a disposición de la Asamblea General las opiniones de los órganos intergubernamentales de la FAO para el examen que se presenta a la Asamblea, a fin de garantizar, entre otras cosas, la coherencia de la orientación intergubernamental. Se acogió con beneplácito el llamamiento de la Asamblea General a la comunidad internacional para dar prioridad a la alimentación y la agricultura en el Programa de Desarrollo y para que se movilicen recursos a todos los niveles, nacional, bilateral y multilateral, en apoyo de una agricultura productiva sostenible y del logro de la seguridad alimentaria, principalmente en países en desarrollo. Se pidió que se mantuviera también informada a la Asamblea General sobre la gama de actividades a las que contribuye la FAO relacionadas con el Acta Final de la Ronda Uruguay. Se invitó a la Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas a que utilizara los conocimientos técnicos de la FAO en relación al informe del Secretariado sobre la aplicación de la Resolución 49/103, entre otras cosas, sobre los efectos y los resultados de la Ronda Uruguay y principalmente sobre la seguridad alimentaria en países en desarrollo.

Se tomó nota también de la ayuda humanitaria, que continua siendo un aspecto importante en el programa de acción de la comunidad internacional, en vista de que persisten aún graves situaciones de emergencia crónicas, prolongadas y complejas. Se hizo mención, por tanto, a la importancia de abordar las causas estructurales, como se destaca en el informe.

En cuanto al continente africano, se mencionaron también las distintas iniciativas entre organismos dedicados a la recuperación de la economía y el desarrollo de Africa y que se ha designado a la FAO como organismo principal para coordinar el Grupo de Trabajo sobre Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Se expresó la esperanza en este sentido de que dichas iniciativas no sustituyeran las acciones concretas a nivel nacional.

Sobre el Programa de Desarrollo, el Consejo adoptó las medidas que se proponen en el párrafo 50 del Informe CL 108/17, aunque en relación a los párrafos 48 y 49 no hubo consenso en cuanto al enfoque sobre el proceso de desarrollo.

Se destacaron las aportaciones de la FAO a la Conferencia Internacional sobre Población y Desarrollo, a la Cumbre Mundial de Desarrollo Social y también a las que están en curso en relación a la 4 a Conferencia Mundial para la Mujer. Se pidió, desde luego, a la FAO por que velara para que en estas actividades complementarias se abordaran las cuestiones relacionadas con la seguridad alimentaria, la agricultura sostenible y el desarrollo rural.

Se insistió de nuevo en la importancia de una participación plena de la FAO en las actividades de la Comisión de Desarrollo Social, y, en particular, la presencia activa en el Panel de Expertos Forestales. Se recordó el avance importante que se había tenido en el 3 o período de sesiones de dicha Comisión. Se tomó nota también de que había una amplia gama de actividades de organizaciones regionales y subregionales, y se señalaron algunas de ellas de importancia que contribuyen a una cooperación continuada en ese sentido.

En lo que se refiere a las relaciones entre la FAO y la Organización Mundial del Comercio, se recordaron los beneficios mutuos que se derivarán de una cooperación plena entre la FAO y la Organización Mundial del Comercio; se recomendó que se reconociera a la FAO como observador en los órganos de la OMC en los que la FAO puede hacer una aportación, una contribución concreta, en particular, los Consejos y los Comités de dicha Organización.

Se solicitó también que para la próxima reunión del Consejo se incluya un capítulo respecto a la cooperación, apoyo y participación de otras organizaciones en la preparación y celebración de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. Se hizo referencia, en ese sentido, al PMA y al FIDA, así como a otras organizaciones y organismos. También hubo menciones a la importancia de que la FAO colaborara activamente con organizaciones no gubernamentales, y algunas delegaciones mencionaron también al movimiento de países no alineados y a otras reuniones y organismos de carácter regional.

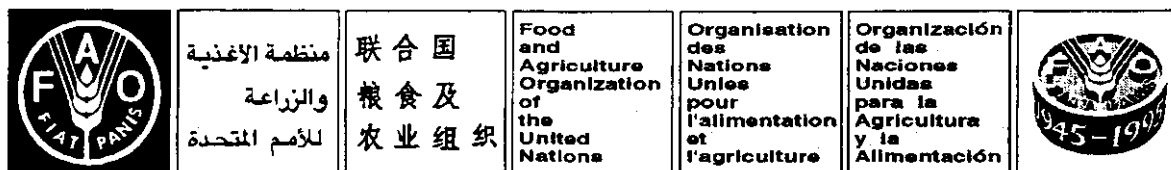
Bien, señores delegados, aunque este tema era de información tuvo un nutrido debate; espero que esto se refleje en el Informe. Si no hay ninguna otra cuestión yo levantaré esta 8ª sesión y recuerdo a los miembros del Comité de Redacción que se reunirán a las 18.00 horas en la Sala México. Pido también a aquellas delegaciones que no han recogido el borrador del informe que se discutirá esta tarde que lo hagan, que está en sus respectivos casilleros, y si no tienen ustedes ninguna otra sugerencia levantamos la sesión y nos veremos mañana para el tratamiento del Tema 16, Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1996-97.

The meeting rose at 17.40 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.40 horas.

9 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session · Cent huitième session · 108º período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

9 June 1995

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Muy buenos días distinguidos delegados, observadores, señoras y señores, es un honor para este Consejo contar de nuevo con la presencia del Director General para los debates de este tema tan importante, medular, para la Organización que es el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996-97. Señor Director General le damos la bienvenida.

PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

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

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

16. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97

16. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1996-97

16. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996-97

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos delegados en el día de hoy como ustedes pueden observar en el Orden del Día, discutiremos el Tema 16 que está apoyado por una serie de documentos que ustedes pueden reconocer en dicho orden del día. Para abrir el debate voy a permitirme ofrecer algunos puntos de vista; en primer lugar recordarles que estas propuestas se examinaron y fueron presentadas al Comité de Finanzas y Comité de Programas, primero en enero en forma de esbozo y ulteriormente, en abril, se presentó en forma de resumen, que es el documento esencialmente que tienen frente a ustedes. Como ustedes pueden observar también, en la lista de documentos que acompañan a este tema, figuran los comentarios que hicieron ambos Comités respecto de la propuesta de resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Sus características principales son pues la de que el presupuesto del resumen responde al principio acordado de crecimiento real cero, respecto de 1994-95 y ofrece un nivel de 673,1 millones de dólares. Se abandona también para esta propuesta y el próximo ejercicio, la medida excepcional adoptada en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93 y 1994-95, en virtud de la cual se tenían en cuenta los pagos extraordinarios previstos de retrasos para financiar el presupuesto.

El incremento de los costos de 31 millones de dólares, que era considerablemente inferior a las estimaciones indicadas en el esbozo de 59 millones de dólares, se estimaron sobre la base de la metodología habitual con un coeficiente de descuento por vacantes del 3,15 por ciento. El resultado es pues, un aumento en las cuotas del 11,7 por ciento al mismo tipo de cambio, de 1 675 libras por dólar con respecto a las cuotas actuales de 1994-95. En 1994-95 las cuotas fueron un 2 por ciento inferiores a las de 1992-93.

En el documento se adopta una nueva estructura del Programa adoptada por los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa. Se indican también las repercusiones globales de las decisiones aprobadas por el Consejo en su 106° período de sesiones, y las economías asociadas con las propias medidas de reestructuración imidas a otras iniciativas del Director General, para reducir gastos, permiten una redistribución de los recursos dentro de la cuantía aprobada del presupuesto de 673,1 millones de dólares. De modo que todos los sectores de la Organización estén en condiciones de funcionar en el bienio 1996-97.

Se proponen nuevas medidas de descentralización que ustedes encontrarán ahí, tales como nueve puestos del centro de la División de Inversiones y 15 de la División de Operaciones de Campo. Por motivos prácticos en el documento no se puede presentar el análisis habitual de los cambios en el que figuran las modificaciones propuestas con respecto a las asignaciones indicadas en el presente documento del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. No obstante, se ha publicado un Suplemento 1, en el que se ofrecen las explicaciones sobre los motivos por los que no ha sido posible hacerlo.

Finalmente, en el resumen se indican las esferas a las que se propone prestar atención prioritaria en la formulación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto completo, teniendo en cuenta las decisiones importantes en materia de reorientación adoptadas ya por el Consejo.

También se incluye una lista provisional de esferas menos prioritarias, si bien los Comités no compartieron la opinión general con respecto a estas esferas de baja prioridad. Asimismo, se señalan algunas actividades esenciales que no podrían realizarse con un presupuesto de 673,1 millones de dólares y, por tanto, podrían cubrirse con una consignación de créditos suplementaria en caso de que se dispusiera de fondos.

También, como parte del ejercicio del día de hoy, nos referiremos a los párrafos correspondientes de los Comités de Agricultura, Pesca y Montes, que tienen duplicaciones presupuestarias.

Para introducir estos temas y hacer aclaraciones importantes respecto al tratamiento de las implicaciones presupuestarias de estas recomendaciones de los comités, le solicito al señor Wade que tome la palabra.

T. WADE (Officer-in-Charge, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. The Director-General has already provided the Council with the framework in which this budget was prepared in his opening address; that is, no real growth, maximum absorption of cost increases, the reflection of the restructuring of both the Organization and the programme structure, and the applications of the savings which were made in that process to the new higher priorities.

I would like to explain, however, briefly, what this document is and what it is not. First of all, it does reflect the decisions of Council 106/2, and that is its major purpose, to explain to the governing bodies precisely what restructuring meant in budgetary terms. It gives you the new organizational structure that was originally fully explained - the rationale for which was fully explained in Council document CL 106/2, and then it gives a precise structure as for the organigrams in Annex A of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. It also gives you the new programme structure including some quite fundamental changes, and those are fully described in section 7 of the document which actually describes the mission of each new sub-programme as proposed in this structure.

Thirdly, it provides you with the new priorities, at least to the extent that they were approved at the Council at its 106th Session; and, fourthly, it shows the impact of implementing certain new modalities, more cost-effective working methods including the new instruments for TCDC, national professional officers, etc. But it does mean that this is not the normal SPWB. The usual SPWB tends to be a preview of the full Programme of Work and Budget. In this case we expect to see a great deal more change between the summary document and the full document.

The Chairman referred to the fact that the tables do not reflect change from the base 1994-95 to the proposed level in 1996-97 as you would normally expect to see. And in fact, he also referred you to the paper Supplement 1 108/3, which describes why it was not practical to provide that sort of format. I will not go through that document, but if anybody has any questions as to what caused us difficulties in providing such information, I would be happy to respond.

I feel it incumbent on me to also bring to your attention some changes in the cost increase assumptions. We did advise the Finance Committee at the time that we were concerned that we had been very conservative on the cost-increase estimates, and we had heard of the possible changes which might come through the system. And I am afraid to confirm that some of these changes, have, in fact, come through.

The first refers to the General Service salary survey. The assumptions for General Service staff costs are shown in paragraph 47 of the document, sub- paragraph C, page 19 in the English version. The results of the survey, as have been recommended, have the impact of authorizing the release of the usual inflationary increase effective 1 June 1994. Now that is a 4.22 percent increase which we had not built into the Summary Programme of Work and Budget at that date. So the timing of subsequent increases also changes, and to avoid boring you with technical detail, it hurts by US\$1.8 million in 1996-97 versus the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

On the question of post adjustment, the ICSC has made two recommendations which concern professional post adjustment, one relating to an appeal concerning the updating of the pension contribution sub-index which is used in calculation of the multiplier, and the second one concerning the extent to which the out-of-area index is taken into account. Now, the first one we already knew about and we had anticipated that the appeal would be successful; so that has no effect in our costing.

The second one, however, is more significant, and we were not aware of it and had not anticipated it, and we understand - this information is very recent - and we understand that the net effect is a 4.46 percent increase in professional salaries effective the 1 June 1994. That is quite different from the timing that we had anticipated, and, therefore, we see - we estimate around about US\$3 million additional cost increases in 1996-97. Now those two areas I have mentioned are certainties and, therefore, we are talking about an additional US\$5 million over the US\$32.8 million mentioned in the document.

One other issue is referred to in the Finance Committee which is a potential increase in professional base salaries. This does look like it will be coming through, but it would go to the General Assembly in December and is subject to their approval, and therefore cannot be included in the provision for cost increases, and certainly we would not propose to put it in at this time. However, you should be aware that if there was a 5 percent increase in professional base salaries this is no longer post adjustment; this is the base. Then that would cost the Organization a further US\$4.5 million per biennium; so while it is not in the cost increases it is something that we would incur in 1996-97, and therefore for which we would have to finally make provision out of the resources that you eventually make available to us.

Mr Chairman, I would like to turn now to the recommendations of the Technical Committees. As you know, COAG, COFI, COFO, CCP, and the Committee for Food Security have all made recommendations which potentially have financial implications. It is not my intention to go through them one by one; it would be too long and it may even be a little irrelevant in the near future; but, going through them in summary, COAG made a substantial number of specific recommendations. We estimate that the specific recommendations - and I refer only to those that were specific, not to general recommendations asking for the strengthening of this or more emphasis on that - these recommendations would amount to some US\$4 million and include areas such as further support to IPM, EMPRES, animal genetic resources, the broadening of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, IPPC, etc.

COFI also had a number of recommendations and we estimate that these would amount to about half a million dollars and a slightly larger amount for COFO. CCP is to be commended. It was the one committee that came up with specific recommendations for savings and a reduction of US\$350 000, although it made a further recommendation for increased country assistance in the implementation of CODEX standards which would offset most of that. The Division estimates approximately US\$270 000. Overall, we are talking about increases in the range of five million dollars. I should say again that these are for the specific recommendations. When the departments reviewed all these general recommendations and made their submissions to the Director-General for 1996-97, they came up with a great deal more than five million dollars as being the requirement.

I would like to turn to the World Food Summit. This is an area of specific interest to the Council and we did promise that we would provide some information in this introduction.

First of all, the conditions have changed since the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. For example, the starting date has changed to November 1996 and we have a clearer view of the form of the Summit. There are four categories of costs involved. The first is costs which we see as part of the ongoing Regular Programme of Work. World Food Security is so much a part of the essence of what the Organization does that it is really very hard to distinguish certain things from what is our normal work. For example, the work of the Division of Commodities and Trade in preparing and running meetings for the Committee of Food Security in the development of technical papers etc., is definitely in the category of activities which we would see as being in our normal Regular Programme. Similarly with the technical papers, for example, the technical paper on the Critical Role of Water is part of the normal policy work of the Land and Water Division. The point that I am making here is that there are costs being incurred there. We see them as being part of the Regular Programme, and those costs will be budgeted in those divisions under the substantial sub-programmes for which they are responsible. In fact, it will not be possible to distinguish those costs as being associated only with the World Food Summit.

A similar situation exists in the costs of arranging our facilities for the Summit to be held here. For example, the regular maintenance programme and the enhancement programmes that we have for the building will be modified to concentrate on those areas where we need to support the holding of the Summit. Another example is the Information Division. Obviously its programmes will be directed towards giving priority to the Summit itself.

The second category of costs refers to the Secretariat's staff. As you know, some staff have been seconded for the period of the preparatory work and the running of the Summit, consisting of the Secretary-General, Mrs Killingsworth, and four professional officers. Of course, such secondments have a cost to the extent that the units providing the people may have to be provided with some temporary replacements, but this is not part of what we see as being the direct incremental cost, which is the third category that I would like to turn to now.

Based on the current assumptions as stated in the information note that you have received dated 29 May, we estimate the costs at approximately one million dollars. This includes the costs of the meeting itself, interpretation, in-session documentation, and the direct costs of the Secretariat excluding the staff time for the moment, but including travel, limited funds for consultancies and general operating expenses. However, that estimate did not include any preparatory meetings over and above the planned meetings of the Committee on Food Security and Council and Conference. In fact, I understand that you are working towards an additional Committee of Food Security which would therefore add costs to the original estimate. In the case of that particular Committee, depending on the number of days and the number of languages etc., we estimate a cost of US\$180 000. This being the case, I would like to say that I think the direct incremental cost will be held within a ceiling of one and a half million dollars. I think that is a safe figure to quote at this stage.

The last category of cost that we see, Mr Chairman, is what we have classified as external assistance. Here we are, of course, looking to our partners and to you and the Member Nations to see whether you can assist us. Many Member Nations have already offered to assist us in the form of providing staff or, in the case of international organizations, the World Bank, for example, has agreed to make a request to its Board to propose help for us.

What sort of assistance are we looking for? In the case of facilities, we have of course relied for years on the Italian Government, who generously has supported this Organization in its ongoing enhancement of these premises, and we are, of course, hoping that they will continue to do so during this period. In particular, the works that have already been committed to the restructuring of Building E would, if completed in time, very much improve our capacity to be able to handle the large, temporary influx of people during the Summit itself.

Another possibility in the area of facilities is private sponsorship. We will be looking for people to help us in areas such as the need for closed circuit television, which is beyond any facilities that we have, and perhaps some companies would be interested in being associated with this important venture.

A problem that we have seen here in this room is that the presentation of audio-visual materials to large groups can be very difficult. One thing that crossed my mind was that the current oversupply of active matrix flat-screen technology might provide a golden opportunity to fit out one of the major meeting rooms with this sort of technology. I am talking about the sort of thing that we see on major commercial airlines today, and certainly some governments and companies might be interested in that.

On the question of non-governmental organizations, provision has not been made in those figures to budget for meetings or the travel costs that may be needed. We hope that some governments will be able to help us with this aspect so that we can make sure that the Summit has the appropriate balance.

In the area of outreach and promotion, there is a need to ensure that the World Food Summit is indeed a world event and that its outcomes are well publicized, well understood and universally accepted. The Information Division, as I have already said, will be redirecting its limited resources to this sort of work, but additional resources would certainly improve the outreach of the Summit.

Preparatory activities is another area where we do not have a specific budget other than as I have stated. If we want to improve the preparatory work at the national and regional levels, this is another area where some assistance could be given.

Finally, of this long list of things for you to think about and write cheques for, provision needs to be made to ensure that all countries are fully represented. Hence those with the most serious financial problems may not be able to participate as desirable if the outcome is to be truly universal. This again is an area where other nations might be able to help.

Mr Chairman, I appreciate that I am beginning to sound like a salesman, and I suspect that budget work in this Organization is going to require those skills more and more in the near future. However, given some support from you in the manner described, the World Food Summit will be one of the most economical of these events ever held, firstly because it will be held in FAO Headquarters and not, as in many other cases, in other locations which require secretariats to be transferred *en bloc* to other countries and, secondly, because the preparatory process relies on FAO's existing committees and governing body structure.

Mr Chairman, I am sorry to have spent so much time on this issue but it seems to me to be one to which Member Governments attach great importance and therefore I thought it necessary to go through it in full. That concludes my introduction.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Wade, porque el tiempo utilizado en sus instrucciones ha sido ganado por el Consejo, ya que ha aclarado el panorama que tenemos frente a nosotros. Le voy a pedir ahora al doctor Bommer, Presidente del Comité del Programa y de la reunión conjunta del Comité de Finanzas y del Programa, que nos presente las conclusiones a las que se llegó en dicha reunión conjunta sobre el Resumen del PLP.

D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee): Mr Chairman, I offer you this additional information which we did not present yesterday when we referred to our meeting of the Programme Committee and the joint meetings with the Finance Committee. Certainly, in the introductory remarks of the report of the Finance Committee reference has already been made to the discussion of the Finance Committee in relation to the Programme of Work and Budget.

I first want to give you some main points of the discussion of the Programme Committee and then our final session with the Finance Committee jointly. We certainly recognize the special circumstances of this biennium including the sections already referred to by Mr Wade in relation to our difficulties, because you also have to link the ongoing Programme of Work and Budget to the proposal under the summary for the new Programme of Work and Budget. The additional information provided by Mr Wade in document CL 108/3-Sup.1 attempts to explain to you where the difficulties are. We certainly hope that information is clearly accessible and understandable for all of us in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget.

Our Committee concentrated on Chapters 4, 5 and 7 of the document of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Referring to the section on the impact of the restructuring, the Committee welcomed the economies deriving from such an impact. These economies would permit redirection of resources to high priority areas in the full Programme of Work and Budget proposals. It also welcomed the substantial progress in decentralization of expertise to outlying offices. We have had an updated report on this. However, we urge at the same time continued attention to the streamlining of administrative procedures which are ongoing and which are of crucial importance for both Regular Programme as well as effective Field Programme Activities.

In Section 5 dealing with priorities, the Committee expressed broad agreement with the areas of high priorities which the Director-General intended to pursue in the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget. It certainly needs to be updated or checked in relation to what is not incorporated in the preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, that is, the proposals made by the three Technical Committees, COFO, COFI and COAG.

In order to offer advice on low priority areas, the Committee felt that more concrete information was needed on the effective impact of resource reductions in the proposed areas as well as other possible areas, including the programme elements intended to be reduced or postponed in order to express definite value judgement. It asks that such information be provided in the full Programme of Work and Budget. The ongoing review of programme activities and much more has been done since the writing of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to facilitate the identification of lower priority areas at the element and sub-programme levels and to provide the managerial tool to identify opportunities for a reduction in resource allocations.

Finally, dealing with section 7, the Programme of Work and Budget, this section took account of the new Programme structure endorsed in the Joint Session with the Finance Committee in January considering the outline of the Programme Work and Budget and recognizing that an integrated presentation of activities in

Headquarters, Regional and Sub-regional offices is intended, the Committee was reassured that a full Programme of Work and Budget would still permit the identification of perspective budgetary inputs of each global level in the Organizational structure and the activities implemented in the various regions which we had in former documents on the Programme of Work and Budget. The Committee also drew attention to the requirements to clearly indicate the interdisciplinary character of most programme structures, as a new programme structure corresponds with the Organization structure which is very much on the disciplinary nature.

Finally, it was requested that a full Programme of Work and Budget to the extent possible provide clear indication of targets for the biennium, outputs envisaged at element and sub-programme levels. The Committee reviewed the section as time allowed us at the Chapter, Major Programme, and Programme Level. Its comments, suggestions and recommendations are reflected in this Report. I do not want to dwell on these in detail - the debate might turn back on them and they can react to those.

In our full day meeting, jointly with the Finance Committee, we concentrated on several key issues. The result of this debate is conveyed to you in the document CL 108/14, paragraph 1.4 to 1.12. The Committees endorsed the overall approach of zero-real growth in the budget and reaffirmed the principle of excluding the payment of arrears and the recommendation of assessments of Member Nations. They appreciated the lower estimates of cost increases which was that included in the outline; however, emphasized the continued financial difficulties confronting the Organization and recommended further strong efforts in research for economies by seeking to preserve the substantive output of the Organization.

Understanding that more refined priority setting, precise proposed allocations and concrete activities and all programme headings will be available in the full Programme of Work and Budget, the Committees underlined the importance of providing, to the extent possible, clear targets and planned outputs for the biennium for element and sub-programme levels. They emphasized the need to maintain a judicious balance between normative and operational activities. The Committee stressed the importance of pursuing a constructive dialogue in the spirit of compromise with the aim of consensus approval of the Programme of Work and Budget at the next Conference. They felt that a major concern of every Member Nation should be to put the Organization again on a sound financial footing and thereby enable it to sustain the long-term effort of renovation and increased efficiency initiated in the present biennium.

Accordingly, the Committees recommended to the Council that it requests the Director-General to proceed with the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget, building on the Summary and taking into consideration the views and concerns expressed by both Committees.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias doctor Bommer por la presentación de las partes correspondientes de los informes del Comité de Finanzas y del Programa.

Espero, distinguidos delegados, que con estas notas introductorias estén ustedes más preparados para sostener el debate.

Ms Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): The United States welcomes the documentation provided in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The supplemental information offered by the Secretariat and the comments of Mr Wade and the Chairman at the Programme Committee are setting the stage for our discussion of this item.

Our debate on the summary budget is occurring at a very sobering time for the United States. It is a time of unprecedented challenges. As a consequence of a bipartisan consensus that deficit reduction must be our first budget priority, we are facing an extraordinary decline in US resources available to domestic and international programmes and, by extension, to the UN System. Our legislative budgetary process has gotten off to a painful start, particularly with respect to the wholesale redesign and downsizing of US programmes focusing on foreign affairs. Congressional proposals are now under consideration to reduce our request for contributions to international organizations by as much as 17 percent for fiscal year 1996 - funds which will pay our calendar year 1995 contribution to the UN, FAO and other UN Specialized Agencies. Even deeper cuts are proposed for future fiscal periods. The situation remains both fluid and extremely uncertain. Final

legislative action to determine the exact budget level is not likely for several months, but we are virtually certain to receive significantly lower appropriations, not only for this year, but for the foreseeable future. Clearly, business as usual no longer pertains to the United States. This means UN budgets, as a whole, must be lower.

The Clinton Administration is pressing for an active and responsible American engagement in the UN System and a reversal of these draconian cuts. We are pursuing all avenues to make the case for full funding of our multilateral commitments. There are no easy solutions or quick fixes available. We are not contemplating a change in the scale of UN assessments. We believe such a change could not be absorbed by the UN political process for sometime.

Given this stark outlook, is it possible to plan rationally for the future? How can we set a more realistic FAO budget level? We can do so by making our priority setting process relevant; by emphasizing programmes FAO does best; and by developing a rational plan for downsizing. In making this proposal, the United States recalls that we joined the near unanimous adoption of the current budget to assure Director-General Diouf of our support for the programme. At the same time, however, we expressed reservations about its structure and foundation. These have proven to be accurate. FAO must position itself now to take what we readily acknowledge will be difficult and painful steps in sharply reducing its 1996-97 Summary Programme of Work and Budget (SPWB) of US\$704 million. There is no time to waste.

The United States' views on FAO programmatic activities are well-known. Throughout the UN System, we have been the foremost advocates of a back to basics approach. For FAO, these activities include data gathering and information dissemination, such as AGRIS, CARIS and GIEWS, market analysis and international trade in agricultural commodities (particularly standard-setting under Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention), agricultural genetic resources, integrated management of pests and diseases, and collaborative work with WHO on ICN follow-up activities. The United States also supports work of the Investment Centre as an effective need of leveraging additional resources for development. For too long, FAO has invested too little in forestry and fisheries, but recent changes mean that FAO can now begin renewing essential linkages with its forestry partners through its active participation in the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. This work can set the stage for effective field operations in sustainable forestry management. Thus, sustaining the new investment in FAO's forestry activities now can have both immediate and long-term payoffs.

While we strongly support FAO's work on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as is evidenced by our active participation in the Council's open-ended Technical Committee, once this process is completed, FAO must begin the process of renewing that department. Given resource constraints, FAO may need to re-energize the normative operations of the department over two biennia. We believe the normative functions FAO undertakes in the above areas are unique and of real value. As in the case of forestry and agriculture, strong normative work is the vital foundation for focused, effective, field operations.

We applaud the Director-General's efforts to identify programmes of lower priority. We have put forth ideas on areas of substantial savings, and would have provided more suggestions for prioritizing programmes during COAG and other meetings, had adequate documentation been available from FAO at that time. We will work with others to continue to identify areas where we believe more substantial savings can be achieved. In light of the drastically changed financial circumstances, for example, the uncertainty of UNDP and Trust Fund resources cited in paragraph 24 of the SPWB, we believe it is essential to re-examine FAO's field structure. Having approved the Director-General's initiative to strengthen FAO's regional office structure, the FAO members now need to examine where that strengthened structure allows significant cost savings through the closing or downsizing of country offices. In rationalizing the field structure, a major cost savings would be achieved by exploring ways of combining some or all of FAO's Western Hemisphere field structure with that of IICA. This consolidation has been already endorsed by Western Hemisphere Agriculture Ministers and should be pursued. We, the members of FAO, can no longer afford this type of costly duplication.

With respect to the establishment of additional liaison offices, we question whether quantifiable targets for measuring their efficacy and ability to generate additional resources have been determined. At a time of cutbacks and retrenchment, we would want to see evidence that this proposal is the optimal way to expand the Organization's resource base.

With regard to the role of FAO in monitoring, evaluating and measuring the impact of the GATT/WTO Agreement on food security conditions in developing countries, we believe that FAO is in a unique position to assess Round-specific implications for developing countries and to assist Member Nations with technical advice on how to carry out provisions of the Agreement. As best we can determine, the work appears complementary and additional to similar efforts under way in UNCTAD, OECD and WTO. FAO, however, does not have the mandate to re-examine provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreement, nor should it question conclusions reached by members of the World Trade Organization.

In the case of specific agricultural programmes where savings could be achieved, we believe that rural extension and agrarian reform activities are areas where FAO has not demonstrated a clear comparative advantage over national institutions, which are ripe for cost containment.

Turning again to FAO's fisheries programme, US support for fisheries data and statistics and fisheries policy is well known. At the same time, we believe that there is scope for savings in aquatic sciences and fisheries information, fisheries resources and aquaculture, and fisheries utilization and marketing. We also consider the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade duplicative of other international fora addressing trade issues. Moreover, the Sub-Committee has not attracted the level of participation required to make it viable.

With regard to forestry, we attach great importance to forest resource assessment and community forestry. However, we have reservations about the reference to the facilitation of agreements on sustainable forest management among FAO's main priorities in paragraph 249 of the budget document. The US believes the complexity of the forestry agenda at this stage makes it premature to consider promoting a legally binding global convention on forests. We would hope FAO will use this biennium to strengthen the emerging collaborative international forestry process, advance its sustainable forestry management strategies, and enhance its vital data collection and analysis programmes. These actions are essential to future progress.

With respect to the administration of trust funds, we believe that FAO could achieve considerable savings if trust fund donors paid their full share of the costs of trust fund projects. We recall the results of the 1993 cost measurement study, which disclosed a regular budget subsidy for project activities totalling US\$57.3 million, including the subsidy for trust funds. This significant subsidy should cease. In our view, administrative and operational support for programmes funded from extra-budgetary resources should be fully paid by those extra-budgetary resources, and not subsidized by the regular budget.

We note that FAO plans to spend at least 23 percent of its 1996-97 budget on programme management, support services and common services, alone. This is an excessive ratio and reducing it significantly is important to achieving a responsible budget. FAO must explore innovative and creative ways to lower these costs.

In the case of personnel, we note that out of some 1 115 Professional posts, a reduction in this figure of less than one percent is contemplated for 1996-97. This is far too conservative. And we see that there is a continuation of grade inflation, which must be stopped and reversed. With respect to the General Service staff, we note that a final determination on the number of General Service staff requirements has not been made. We would like to see more substantial cutbacks in this area, given that information and communications technology has transformed the way in which business is conducted, reducing the need for a large supports staff. A highly skilled, mobile work force is needed at FAO, with fewer hierarchical levels.

With regard to the financial parameters of the SPWB, we are extremely disturbed by the level of cost increases, US\$31.8 million, in the SPWB and those additional costs spelled out by Mr Wade. FAO should fully absorb cost increases due to inflation and biennialization. In particular, the net effect of any changes in grades for both Professional and General Services should be absorbed, a practice common in my own and other governments. Cost increases for consultants, contracts and temporary assistance should also be absorbed.

Given the importance of US financial contributions to the UN, the US finds it essential to clarify as much as possible the difficult budgetary outlook we face. We believe it is accurate to say that international organizations, as a whole, not just FAO, will have significantly lower resources for the foreseeable future. Government agencies in the United States and many other countries are dealing with dramatic cuts in personnel and funding. In some cases, they are finding ways to do the same job with fewer resources. In

others, they are fundamentally rethinking their roles and activities. International organizations cannot be exempt from these pressures, and will have to meet the same challenges in the coming years. Moreover, FAO cannot engage in external borrowing to implement its programme of work. This practice will not work given the extended declining resource outlook and indeed, US law prohibits us from paying our share of the interest costs. We are encouraged to learn that the Director-General opposes borrowing from external sources.

A collaborative approach involving all Member States, the Director-General and the Secretariat in resolving the situation and setting a new budget level is the only viable course. The Director-General has already taken very positive steps by reducing expenditures in the current budget and identifying lower priority areas for 1996-97. We commend the Director-General's efforts to streamline meetings and publications to reduce costs, but much more remains to be done. FAO should consider biennializing, shortening and eliminating additional meetings, including those of its governing bodies. In the case of publications, FAO should look at more creative and less costly options, contracting out work to low-cost private sector firms and using technologically innovative ways of transferring information, such as through greater use of CD-ROM.

Mr Chairman, we came here with suggestions for cost savings. A new era is beginning which requires a major rethinking of the roles and activities of every Agency in the UN System. This is also true of FAO, if it is to make vital contributions and meet new challenges with fewer resources, fewer staff, new working methods, and a more limited, focused set of priorities. We know that other countries will have ideas as well. We welcome the comments of others, so that we can work together to find a constructive solution that, as the Director-General said, "preserves FAO's unique role, consolidates the process of change, and invests for the future." We think this can be achieved with a budget level of US\$550 million to US\$600 million.

These numbers are not arbitrary, Mr Chairman, nor are they meant to be punitive. The year 1995 is not 1989, when the USA significantly reduced its payments to FAO because of major policy disagreements with the former FAO management. The numbers we are talking about for 1995, and for the 1996-97 biennium and beyond, are realistic numbers, which will apply to most UN Agencies. To be fair to FAO and our fellow Member Nations, in our view, the only message we could offer today is that the FAO budget we approve this year must be realistic. We hope that, by working together, we can achieve this objective and approve the 1996-97 budget unanimously at the Conference.

Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil): I will read parts of my statement and, if it is felt useful, I will hand in the whole of it to the Secretariat.

Mr Chairman, our Organization has very clear objectives and in the year of its 50th Anniversary we are preparing ourselves to recall these objectives and to once again endorse them. As regards achieving these objectives, we would like to make some comments on how FAO's programme has been shaped. We believe that in order to achieve its important objectives FAO should continue to expand its operational activities without prejudice to improving its level of excellence. The gathering of knowledge and the improvement of FAO as a centre of excellence cannot be an objective in itself; it is only the means that will allow the Organization to fulfil the ultimate objective of eradicating hunger. Work of a normative character, however useful, should not detract attention in any way from the all-important operational activities. What I am trying to say, Mr Chairman, is that FAO must not become some kind of university or centre for studies or data gathering, aimed at having academic debates on how to deal with hunger. FAO's rightful place is in the field, providing technical assistance, transferring technology and knowledge and cooperating with governments as they request assistance. By the same token, FAO's usefulness has to be gauged by its capacity to improve the working and living conditions of the end users, that is to say, the men and women in the fields.

This is what basics means to us, Mr Chairman, and that is why Brazil supported, as we all did, the Director-General's proposals for the centralization. We therefore favour the increase in the level of resources allocated to operational programmes in field activities. We wish to stress the importance of FAO technical cooperation activities, particularly in areas where the Organization has a comparative advantage.

We believe there is a need to fulfil the provisions of Resolution 9/89 which called for a progressive increase in TCP appropriation until it reached 17 percent of the total budget. We regret this has not been possible and that the TCP appropriation in the next biennium remains at the same level of the current budget.

We support the priorities set out in document CL 108/3 and the general thrust of the proposed Programme of Work for the next biennium and in that context we would like to lay emphasis on programmes aimed generally at promoting food security and agrarian reform.

We also feel that special attention should be given to sub-programme CL 108/3 2.1.4, Rural Finance, and to the Major Programme 2.2, Food and Agricultural Policy Development; in particular to Programmes 2.2.12, Nutrition Programmes; 2.2.13, Food Control and Consumer Protection, and 2.2.15, Codex Alimentarius, Food Standards, as well as to the follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Nutrition and to all activities relating to household food security, food quality and safety, food-based solutions to micro-nutrient deficiency problems, food protection and monitoring, and the work of the Codex Alimentarius.

With regards to the recommendations made in the area of agriculture, we strongly support the following points of document CL 108/9 on page iii: iv, v, vii and xiv; on page vi: xxxiv, xxxix, xii.

In paragraph 2.52 of document CL 108/3 under Programme 2.4.1, Forest Resources, we feel the reference to the harmonization of criteria and indicators at a global level for sustainable forest management is cast in inappropriate terms particularly in light of the report of the last Session of the Committee on Forestry where in paragraph 17 it is clearly stated that some delegates expressed concern about premature attempts at harmonization. In the same paragraph 2.52 we do not favour the use of the expression "greening of the world" which carries mainly a preservationist connotation. In addition it lacks precision and technical content. We therefore think it can be deleted without any loss to the meaning of the paragraph.

In paragraph 2.56 we deem it important that a reference be made to the Convention on Biological Diversity and that all activities undertaken by FAO in this field should be carried out in accordance with the Convention.

Regarding sub-programmes 2.4.21, Wood and Non-wood Products, and 2.4.22, Forest Harvesting, Trade and Marketing and paragraphs 2.6.1 to 2.6.6, we suggest reference be made to the CSD and ILO, appropriate institutions or organizations in the light of their mandate, to examine the relationships between trade and environment.

Turning finally to Programme 2.5, Contributions to Sustainable Development and Special Programme Thrusts, particularly with reference to paragraph 2.77 we think FAO should concentrate on areas in which it has a proven comparative advantage of all the activities already undertaken by other organizations, particularly UNEP.

Sir, may I turn to the question of the Budget? We, in our delegation, would have preferred to have an objective look at the Budget proposal and comment on its intrinsic value only. However, as I know a number of delegations will deem it necessary to look at it in a broader context, allow me to make a few comments of the same nature. Brazil believes, and has so stated in other fora of the United Nations, that it is incumbent upon all of us to fulfil financial obligations in full, on time and unconditionally. Any weakening of this commitment as regards FAO cannot but have detrimental effects on the functioning of the Organization and indeed shake the very foundations of the United Nations edifice.

The occurrence of arrears, regrettable in itself, must not be utilized as a reason for reducing the level of activities but should rather serve as a reminder of the need to strengthen our resolve to again become and stay current in our payments. This is the clearest signal we can give of support to FAO's objective as we prepare to celebrate its 50th anniversary. It is also the best way to avoid increases in contributions as are now being proposed.

Turning now to the Budget proposal itself, Mr Chairman, we feel in spite of financial and other constraints on the part of some countries, to fight against hunger and malnutrition is not an activity where the international community can afford to relent in its efforts as this is the main source of all ills affecting humankind today. However, we remain prepared to accept that the concept of zero real growth be applied once more in setting the level of expenditures in the Budget.

That this means in the proposal before us an increase in level of assessed contributions is entirely another matter. We all know that a substantial portion of this increase in assessed contributions results from the less than wise decision that we made at the last Conference to reduce the level of assessment by some 2 percent in the face of very unfavourable odds. Clearly this must now be made up for in the Budget for the coming biennium. There is no other way. In the end, Mr Chairman, we will have assessed much the same amount in absolute terms for 1996-97 as would be the case if the funding for the current biennium, and therefore the current level of assessment, had been established by the Conference in a more careful manner; except that in the absence of that unfortunate decision the percentage increase this time would have been much smaller - in fact, less than 5 percent. Therefore, we look at the percentage increase in assessed contributions not from the current Budget to the next but over a period of six years and here, I am afraid, I have to suggest a correction to the calculations in document CL 108/3.

We note that the cumulative yearly increase in assessments over that period of six years would be 1.81 percent and not 2.3 percent, as stated in paragraph 5 because, if it is to be seen as an increase per annum, as paragraph 55 says, then, Sir, you have to calculate the cumulative increase year over year and not by biennium over biennium. Of course, biennium over biennium gives 4.7 and 4.6 which is 9.4 percent cumulative for the period, whereas the yearly increase, if calculated, would be a mere 1.8 percent a year over this period of six years.

This is what we are really talking about, Mr Chairman, an increase of only 1.8 percent a year which, of course, is much lower than the rate of inflation in the world anywhere. In other words, Sir, in the six-year period under consideration we will have, as regard assessments, a negative real growth budgeting exercise.

Let us consider that because, much as we may all prefer to pay less rather than more, I find it difficult under the circumstances to ask for less than that. We are certain that FAO will continue to streamline procedures, improve the cost-effectiveness of all programmes and make efforts to reduce administrative and personnel costs which negatively affect the efficiency of related services. This is a never-ending process where FAO should continue to carry out more activities with the same amount of money and to execute existing programmes at lower cost.

It is important to emphasize that total absorption of cost increases would eventually put FAO into a straitjacket leading to an unacceptable loss of its ability to respond adequately to new challenges.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, let me say that my delegation is ready to participate in consultations on the important question of the Budget for the next biennium hoping that fairness and consistency will prevail and that, as they say in French "que chacun prenne ses responsabilités".

Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso): La délégation du Burkina Faso a l'honneur de prendre la parole ce matin au nom du Groupe africain sur cet important point de l'ordre du jour du Conseil pour exprimer les positions de ses cinquante-trois Etats Membres de l'Organisation sur les principales questions relatives à la préparation du Programme de travail et budget 1996-97.

Qu'il me soit permis, avant tout, de féliciter le Directeur général pour avoir préparé un document reflétant les différents points de vue exprimés lors des examens antérieurs du schéma et de vous remercier, Monsieur le Président, ainsi que Monsieur Bommer, pour les explications complémentaires et précieuses de tout à l'heure. Nous réitérons notre soutien au train de mesures et à la politique de restructuration entreprises par le Directeur général pour donner suite aux décisions de la cent sixième session du Conseil. Nous nous félicitons du fait que le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1996-97 ait été établi dans les perspectives d'une vision globale à long terme de l'accomplissement de la restructuration de l'Organisation.

Il nous paraît essentiel de souligner que la préparation du Programme de travail et budget n'est pas seulement un exercice habituel d'examen des ressources et des dépenses; c'est l'occasion de projeter la consolidation des actions déjà entreprises concernant la décentralisation, le redéploiement du personnel, le renforcement des fonctions opérationnelles et normatives, le recentrage des priorités autour de la sécurité alimentaire - toutes choses du reste déjà approuvées par le Conseil.

Je souhaite ensuite exprimer notre gratitude au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier qui ont examiné préalablement le schéma du Programme de travail et budget. Les recommandations de ces deux comités sont d'une qualité incontestable et constitueront sans nul doute une aide précieuse à l'analyse des délégations. Le Groupe africain note avec intérêt que, malgré la complexité des questions étudiées, ces deux comités, composés de représentants de toutes les régions, sont parvenus à un consensus sur des sujets de controverse. Le Groupe africain souscrit à l'ensemble des recommandations du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme en espérant vivement que ce consensus sera sauvegardé, tout au moins dans son esprit.

Depuis la préparation du schéma du Programme de travail et budget, des faits nouveaux sont intervenus au niveau des Etats Membres respectifs dans le système des Nations Unies et au sein même de la FAO. Ces faits majeurs ne peuvent pas être ignorés par le Conseil. Aussi, le Groupe africain souhaite-t-il faire observer, avec un certain regret, que la cent huitième session du Conseil n'aura peut-être pas la possibilité de faire des recommandations claires sur toutes les questions relatives au Programme de travail et budget, compte tenu du caractère aléatoire des informations disponibles. Le rôle du Conseil ne sera pas pour autant minimisé; au contraire, il lui sera possible de concentrer ses recommandations sur un nombre limité de décisions, mais des décisions prioritaires et urgentes.

La complexité de la tâche qui nous attend nous autorise à proposer au Conseil une démarche par étapes fondée sur un élagage progressif des questions de fond, puis de méthodologie, et qui sont à la base de la préparation du Programme de travail et budget. Le Groupe africain, pour sa part, souhaite aborder l'examen de ce point en suivant cette démarche.

En ce qui concerne les questions de fond, le Groupe africain réaffirme son ferme soutien au principe d'un budget à croissance réelle zéro défini sur la base budgétaire du Programme de travail et budget 1994-95, c'est-à-dire 673 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis. Evidemment, cette base budgétaire est loin de couvrir les besoins immenses des Etats Membres vis-à-vis de la FAO mais elle a au moins le mérite de tenir compte de l'environnement économique et géopolitique du monde.

Le Groupe africain appuie, d'autre part, la proposition du Directeur général consistant à ne plus recourir aux arriérés pour le financement du budget. Cette décision vient à point nommé régulariser une situation contraire au règlement financier de l'Organisation. Tout en se félicitant de ce retour à la normale, les pays africains regrettent que des pratiques contraires utilisées dans les budgets précédents dussent se traduire par un accroissement des contributions des Etats Membres, conséquence tout aussi préoccupante que la situation économique et financière des pays africains, qui ne cesse de se détériorer chaque jour.

Le Groupe africain est convaincu de la gravité de la situation créée par les arriérés de contributions et de leur impact sur la mobilisation des ressources et l'exécution du Programme de travail de l'organisation. Ces pays, qui sont les principaux bénéficiaires de l'action de la FAO, sont malheureusement - et précisément pour cette raison - parmi ceux qui ont le plus grand mal à s'acquitter de leurs engagements vis-à-vis de l'Organisation. Néanmoins, ils sauront tirer les conséquences de la présente situation pour consentir les indispensables sacrifices. En effet, la responsabilité de l'Organisation repose équitablement sur tous les Etats Membres, quelle que soit la valeur absolue de leurs contributions. Aussi, les pays africains sont-ils conscients de l'importance du rôle qu'ils seront appelés à jouer dans ce nouveau pacte de partenariat et de solidarité qui devrait exister entre Etats et Organisations Membres de la FAO. Fort de ces convictions, le Groupe africain réaffirme sa volonté politique de soutenir avec fermeté l'Organisation et de participer activement à la recherche de solutions durables au manque de ressources pour la survie de notre Organisation commune, nourricière pour des centaines de millions de vies humaines.

Le Groupe africain, par ma voix, invite les membres du Conseil à se prononcer clairement sur ces principes de base et souhaite qu'une plate-forme minimale consensuelle soit adoptée au cours de la présente session.

Il restera alors en instance la question difficile des accroissements de coûts pour lesquels nous devons reconnaître une certaine compétence au Directeur général. Tout en nous félicitant de l'effort qui a permis de réduire les accroissements de coûts de 59 à 31,8 millions de dollars, les pays africains, compte tenu des réalités objectives de leurs économies, invitent le Secrétariat à examiner toutes solutions permettant d'absorber au minimum possible les coûts d'exécution des programmes sans toutefois porter préjudice à l'efficacité de l'Organisation vis-à-vis des attentes des Etats Membres, surtout ceux se trouvant dans le plus grand besoin d'assistance.

La tâche du Directeur général ne sera pas facile, surtout dans ces conditions de quasi-absence d'indications claires sur les priorités du programme. Les Etats Membres devront faire face à leurs responsabilités à l'avenir; le Groupe africain est prêt à entamer un débat franc et fructueux pour parvenir à un recentrage des activités de l'Organisation sur les tâches essentielles découlant de son mandat. D'ores et déjà, nous réaffirmons le soutien ferme de tous les pays africains aux activités opérationnelles concourant à réaliser la sécurité alimentaire grâce à un renforcement des capacités nationales.

Dans ce contexte, le Groupe africain voudrait souligner la priorité des programmes suivants: les programmes spéciaux en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faibles revenus et à déficit vivrier, concentrés en majorité en Afrique; le Programme EMPRES; le Programme de coopération technique; le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation qui, dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire, revêt une priorité pour l'Afrique, bien sûr, s'il doit se traduire concrètement par une prise de conscience généralisée et un sursaut face à la menace contre l'humanité; le Programme de gestion des ressources naturelles - la maîtrise de l'eau et la conservation des sols; la conduite et la diversification des cultures - le développement des cultures secondaires et le développement technologique; le développement de l'aquaculture; et la lutte contre la désertification. Je suppose que les pays africains membres du Conseil compléteront la liste au cours de leurs interventions.

L'examen du Programme de travail et budget d'une Organisation comme la FAO est une occasion unique de rappeler la force de la solidarité de la communauté internationale pour faire face aux défis qui s'imposent à l'humanité où le nombre des victimes de la faim - quelque 800 millions d'êtres aujourd'hui - ne cesse de croître chaque année. Notre conviction, au sein du Groupe africain, est qu'aucun conflit d'intérêts ne saurait se justifier aux yeux des nombreuses populations qui ont placé leur avenir et leur survie sur nos décisions.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je vais m'exprimer à la fois au nom de l'Union européenne et de ma délégation nationale. Je m'exprime d'abord au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses quinze Etats membres.

La Communauté européenne et ses Etats membres ont examiné avec soin le document CL 108/3 et souhaitent, par le biais de leur présidence, faire part d'un certain nombre de remarques qui constituent leur position commune. A partir de celles-ci, plusieurs Etats membres, comme je le ferai d'ailleurs moi-même immédiatement après, interviendront dans le débat pour vous faire part de remarques supplémentaires.

Je pense que nous devons articuler notre réflexion sur deux sujets différents mais liés entre eux: le budget et la base budgétaire, d'une part, et le Programme de travail, d'autre part.

En ce qui concerne le budget, nous sommes évidemment d'accord avec le principe de saine gestion budgétaire qui consiste à ne pas inclure des arriérés dans la base budgétaire. En revanche, nous ne pouvons soutenir l'augmentation très forte des contributions ordinaires qui nous sont proposées à hauteur de 11,7 pour cent par rapport au biennium actuel.

Le budget 1996-97 devrait être la résultante de l'absorption maximale des variations de coûts par les contributions ordinaires et de la diminution de la base budgétaire de 38 millions de dollars d'arriérés.

La très grave déclaration, qui constitue un élément nouveau, que vient de faire la déléguée des Etats-Unis, préoccupe sérieusement l'Union européenne à cause des profondes conséquences qu'elle pourrait avoir sur le Programme de travail de l'Organisation. La Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres tiennent à faire savoir dès maintenant et sans ambiguïté que, malheureusement, ils ne seront pas en mesure de couvrir et ne couvriront pas un quelconque déficit de financement qui résulterait de la regrettable réduction de la contribution des Etats-Unis.

Nous voudrions toutefois exprimer également ici notre attachement à ce que les Etats-Unis demeurent un Membre actif de l'OAA. Il est clair que la prise en compte de la position des Etats-Unis constituera un élément important de l'exercice de revue détaillée du budget. A l'évidence, cela demande une action des plus urgentes, et nous faisons appel au Directeur général à ce sujet.

En ce qui concerne le Programme, ce tableau des difficultés budgétaires peut nous conduire à nous montrer très vigilants sur son contenu: il faut clairement identifier les véritables priorités et retarder, réduire ou couper les activités non prioritaires. Parallèlement, il faut trouver les moyens d'une efficacité accrue de toutes les composantes de l'Organisation afin d'en augmenter la productivité et d'identifier de possibles économies. La révision des structures et des méthodes de travail des organes directeurs ne doit pas échapper, bien entendu, à cet exercice.

Nous voudrions rappeler certains principes de base concernant le rôle que doit jouer, à notre avis, l'Organisation dans le secteur de l'agriculture, et que nous avons déjà exprimés dans nos déclarations communes lors des dernières sessions des Comités des forêts, des pêches et de l'agriculture.

La Communauté européenne et ses Etats membres considère qu'il convient de favoriser les activités de la FAO qui contribuent à renforcer son rôle de centre d'excellence dans le secteur de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. "Centre d'excellence" ne veut pas dire, d'ailleurs, que l'OAA dispose de compétences universelles mais qu'elle doit travailler en partenariat avec d'autres institutions, comme les débats au COAG, au COFI et au COFO l'ont indiqué. Il s'agit principalement de l'importance du rôle normatif de l'Organisation en tant que forum international de discussion et de négociation, de sa fonction d'information des Etats Membres, de sa fonction de conseil en politiques et, enfin, de sa fonction d'assistance technique, qui doit être très étroitement articulée sur les orientations du Programme ordinaire.

Il s'agit notamment de veiller à la synergie de ce dernier avec le programme de terrain et d'optimiser l'utilisation des ressources extrabudgétaires. Les activités de terrain de l'OAA devraient se concentrer sur des programmes ou projets ayant un caractère novateur, pour aboutir à des solutions de développement durable dans les domaines relevant clairement du mandat de l'Organisation.

Dans l'exercice de la sélection des programmes, la méthode du questionnaire n'a pas donné, hélas, jusqu'à présent, les résultats escomptés. Les Etats Membres ont donné des orientations lors des discussions au sein des comités techniques, en dépit de leurs réserves sur le manque d'informations chiffrées disponibles à cette époque.

Il serait cependant bien illusoire de leur demander de trancher parmi les éléments de programmes. Le rôle du Directeur général sera donc bien de proposer les priorités et les réductions d'activités à envisager, thème par thème, en évaluant les gains de productivité et les économies possibles pour parvenir à une plus grande transparence des orientations du Programme.

Le Directeur général a déjà un peu répondu à cette attente au chapitre V du document. Bien entendu, nous pourrions demander des éclaircissements au Secrétariat sur ses choix, mais, globalement, la démarche correspond bien aux contraintes que nous connaissons.

Concernant la mise en oeuvre des deux programmes spéciaux, les volumes budgétaires déjà alloués à ces activités en 1994/95 n'ont permis de financer que des phases préparatoires. Dans le contexte de restrictions budgétaires dans lequel nous nous trouvons, il pourrait être difficile à ces deux programmes spéciaux d'attirer les volumes de contributions extrabudgétaires recherchés. Et ce d'autant plus que leur mise en oeuvre, et je le souligne bien c'est de la mise en oeuvre qu'il s'agit, suscite de nombreux doutes auprès des responsables de la plupart de nos agences de développement notamment quant à leur efficacité et leur caractère novateur, du moins sur la base des informations fournies aujourd'hui.

Dans ces conditions, le réalisme impose de s'interroger sur l'opportunité de réinjecter des financements de programme ordinaire, sans garantie d'accompagnement extrabudgétaire; la sagesse conduirait sans doute, de toute manière, à limiter le nombre de pays bénéficiaires dans une première phase.

Par ailleurs, le Secrétariat ne peut s'imaginer que les principaux contributeurs à la FAO pourront couvrir certaines activités par les ressources extrabudgétaires en lieu et place du Programme ordinaire, notamment celles relevant du rôle normatif de l'Organisation. Ainsi, par exemple, l'exercice de révision de l'engagement sur les ressources phylogénétiques et la préparation de la quatrième conférence internationale devraient aussi être assurées par le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation. C'est également le cas de la refonte que nous savons indispensable des systèmes FINSYS et PERSYS.

Pour finir, Monsieur le Président et Monsieur le Directeur général, nous ne devons pas négliger le volet financier de l'organisation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, sur lequel nous venons de recevoir des indications claires, dont les aspects de fond ont été débattus lors de la discussion du point 4 de l'ordre du jour. Nous avons eu des renseignements détaillés et nous vous en remercions.

Je vais maintenant m'exprimer au nom de mon propre pays.

En ce qui concerne le contexte politique et financier, la France est très préoccupée par la situation à laquelle le système des Nations Unies dans son ensemble, et l'OAA en particulier, risque d'avoir à faire face au cours des prochaines années. Mon pays considère en effet que les Nations Unies sont aujourd'hui l'objet d'une attaque grave qui risque de déboucher à terme sur une perte d'influence du système dans son ensemble.

La décision que risque de prendre le plus gros contributeur crée un précédent dans le système des Nations Unies en général, et au sein de l'OAA en particulier. Cette décision conduit à une situation paradoxale où un Etat, en fixant de manière unilatérale sa contribution nationale, déterminerait le budget de base d'une Organisation. Il est vrai que cet Etat est le premier contributeur mais il est aussi celui qui a accumulé le plus haut montant d'arriérés, ayant déjà mis l'Organisation en difficulté pour accomplir son programme de travail. La France estime que toute décision d'un Etat visant à réduire de manière unilatérale sa contribution obligatoire est politiquement inacceptable. Seul le recours à des solutions négociées doit permettre de parvenir à une situation prévisible pour les institutions des Nations Unies.

Cependant, ma délégation souhaite rappeler qu'elle estime indispensable que l'Organisation conduise un processus de réforme permettant d'en améliorer l'efficacité et d'en réduire les coûts de fonctionnement. La simplification des procédures administratives, la réelle déconcentration des pouvoirs qui doit accompagner la décentralisation sont des mesures indispensables. Nous souhaiterions que le Secrétariat aille toujours plus loin dans cette voie.

S'agissant en second lieu du cadre budgétaire général, je souhaite faire trois observations: la première concerne les ressources extrabudgétaires. Il ne faut pas, selon nous, espérer un afflux de contributions extrabudgétaires et il nous semble que le document y fait parfois trop souvent référence. Je souhaiterais mentionner, en particulier, deux exemples en dehors de ceux mentionnés dans la Déclaration communautaire: le cas des ressources zoo-génétiques d'une part, le suivi du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable d'autre part. Ces deux domaines d'action font partie du noyau essentiel d'activités de l'Organisation et il ne convient pas, selon ma délégation, de faire appel à des ressources extrabudgétaires pour les financer.

Ma deuxième remarque concerne le paragraphe 40. On y indique des délais de recrutement qui me paraissent extrêmement longs, montrant le chemin qui reste à faire pour alléger les procédures bureaucratiques.

Ma troisième remarque sera relative aux recettes accessoires mentionnées au paragraphe 51. A ce stade, il s'agit pour l'essentiel de produits financiers. Ma délégation estime que l'Organisation devrait avoir une politique plus active également de recherche de ressources propres et envisager, par exemple, des mesures de valorisation efficace sur le marché en matière de publications ou de diffusion d'informations qui sont excellentes.

En ce qui concerne la quatrième partie du document, "Incidences de la restructuration", je m'interroge sur ses effets bénéfiques déjà atteints dans le cadre de cette restructuration (réduction de frais, économies d'échelle...), qui sont évoqués dans le document. Bien entendu nous appuyons le processus dans son ensemble.

Par ailleurs, sur le plan du personnel, il nous semblerait souhaitable de rétablir une pyramide normale des emplois. Le tableau du paragraphe 70 est particulièrement éloquent. Nous avons une sorte d'armée mexicaine, c'est une expression courante en français qui n'a rien à voir avec la situation actuelle de ce grand pays et je m'excuse par avance auprès de la délégation du Mexique de l'employer. Il présente un ratio Administrateurs/Directeur qui nous semble trop faible (moins de cinq administrateurs par Directeur en moyenne) et il n'y a pas de mouvement dans la pyramide vers un rajeunissement des cadres.

S'agissant de la cinquième partie du document relatif aux priorités, je ferai deux observations. La première concerne les domaines affectés d'un rang de priorité moindre (paragraphe 105-106) et nous voudrions véritablement saluer ce premier effort, sans précédent dans l'Organisation, réalisé par le Directeur général sur ce point.

Ma seconde remarque concerne la proposition figurant aux paragraphes 107 et 108 visant à proposer à la prochaine Conférence d'adopter une résolution portant ouverture de crédits en cas de versements d'arriérés. Ma délégation ne s'oppose pas à cette proposition mais souhaite rappeler que les arriérés éventuels doivent en priorité revenir au fonds général et financer le programme ordinaire. Seuls les montants excédant le budget de base pourraient être visés par cette résolution.

Monsieur le Président, je souhaite maintenant faire quelques observations relatives aux différents chapitres du budget-programme.

En ce qui concerne le chapitre "Politique et direction générales", le paragraphe traitant des bureaux de liaison nous conduit à rappeler au Secrétariat la nécessité d'une coordination avec les autres instances des Nations Unies pour l'utilisation en commun des immeubles, des bureaux de liaison déjà existants et notre souhait est d'éviter que chaque agence ait sa propre installation. C'est bien entendu vrai également, je le souligne ici, pour le PAM.

S'agissant du chapitre "Programmes techniques et économiques", et notamment du rôle de l'OAA en matière de programmes de recherche, il est nécessaire de clarifier la relation de l'Organisation avec ce secteur. Pour nous, le rôle de l'Organisation doit être celui de partenaire actif de la recherche et d'utilisateur de ses résultats. Vis-à-vis des pays en développement, il peut également être d'aider à la formulation de programmes de recherche. En revanche, la coordination des activités relèvera généralement de ceux qui financent cette recherche.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je souhaite dire quelques mots sur les programmes spéciaux.

Pour ce qui concerne le programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire dans les PFRDV, je voudrais rappeler notre ferme soutien de principe à ces deux programmes. La France, qui dispose d'un réseau important de coopération dans certains pays entrant dans la catégorie concernée est prête, à condition qu'un dialogue approfondi s'instaure - et ce dialogue n'existe pas encore d'après les informations que j'ai - notamment sur le terrain, à examiner quelle pourrait être sa participation à ce programme. Comme vous le savez, nous n'avons pas de fonds fiduciaires en dehors du soutien des activités normatives de la FAO, mais nous avons un ministère de la coopération, alors que d'autres Etats Membres ici, notamment européens, ont des fonds extrabudgétaires mais pas véritablement de service de coopération installé dans tous les pays. La semaine prochaine, le responsable des programmes de la coopération vient à la FAO et nous espérons qu'il y aura des contacts productifs, car nous avons, je tiens à le souligner - et cela nous est revenu des postes concernés par le Programme spécial -, beaucoup de doutes sur le contenu technique des projets ou programmes envisagés dans certains pays pour qu'il soit acceptable pour nous.

S'agissant enfin du programme EMPRES, nous souhaiterions avoir des précisions sur les résultats positifs qui auraient été obtenus par le volet concernant la peste bovine. Pour ce qui concerne le criquet pèlerin, il est urgent de progresser dans la définition du programme en matière de stratégie de lutte préventive.

Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I am going to confine my remarks entirely to the budgetary aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget and the implications of some of the statements that have been made this morning. I shall not, therefore, at this stage address programme matters. To save time, the United Kingdom will submit its observations on programmes.

Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom associates itself entirely with the statement made by the European Union Presidency which asserts that the European Union Member States cannot accept the predicted 11.7 percent cost increase over the previous biennium and also with the fact that, not only can we not accept this, but neither are we willing or able to meet any shortfall to the budget brought about by the inability of others to meet their assessed contribution as based on the roughly 705 million dollars budgetary requirement as set out in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

In pursuing these points Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom is doing so within the strategy framework that it has adopted for and presented to this and other United Nations Agencies. This strategy is based on the pursuit of management and governance reform and improved agency effectiveness.

In the circumstances, we see no alternative but to ask the Secretariat to reconsider its budgetary estimates with a view to reducing it to a size that would enable all members to meet their assessed contributions without entering into arrears.

Like other members present, we are faced with budgetary stringency at home and the insistence by the political level that efficiency measures adopted within our own public sector are also being pursued by those multilateral agencies to which we contribute.

My delegation is fully aware of the efforts that have been made by the current Director-General to introduce streamlining into FAO and it is also very conscious of the need to avoid, as far as possible, cutting back on programmes at the expense of administration. We therefore consider that the Secretariat should embark immediately on an exercise to find efficiency savings of an order that would meet budgetary reductions which would bring the baseline figure down to around 600 million dollars.

We are also aware that any organization faced with this task tends to start out by believing that no such savings can be found and that there is an in-built tendency to protect the status quo. It is hard to take unpleasant decisions which might affect our colleagues and in these circumstances, Mr Chairman, I suggest that it may be beneficial for FAO to seek external management advice. I am not suggesting some full-blown management review but rather a discrete exercise working to very specific terms of reference which restricts the scope of work to that of finding efficiency savings of the order required.

Where could such savings be found? The Secretariat has made a start in identifying activities of a lower priority in the Programme of Work and Budget, a list with which my delegation would by and large agree, but we will need to go very much further than that. Painful though it is, this Organization will have to seriously review its staffing levels if we are to maintain FAO as a centre of normative excellence and Technical Cooperation Programmes in the field. Mr Wade's introductory remarks, which pointed out the potential post-adjustment and salary increases impact on the budget, simply underline the need for a radical appraisal of staffing levels.

We therefore suggest that any exercise to identify efficiency savings should include scrutiny of the following areas: staffing levels and in particular the ratio of professional to general service staff but including a review of professional staffing levels.

Recruitment procedures and practices. Travel at every level in the Organization. Further radical reductions in the list of publications and a review of the practice of sending out multiple copies, even if this requires amendments to the constitution. We can no longer afford the practice of sending, in some cases hundreds of copies to members.

Mr Chairman, a radical review of administrative overheads at all levels needs to be urgently undertaken. A comparison of the cost of administering FAO's work with that of administering the UK's own aid budget, which is very much bigger than that of FAO, makes it very, very difficult for us to defend the agency to our Parliament.

Any reconsideration of administrative overheads must also include the cross subsidy provided by the PWB for Trust Fund projects. A policy of full cost recovery should be implemented. I realise that this could be unpopular for those who support Trust Funds but it is the policy of the UK in all its dealings and we have pursued this elsewhere and consistently within FAO. Abolishment of that subsidy could indeed find a large part of the savings required.

Co-location with other UN agencies and shared facilities and administrative support should be urgently pursued for country and regional offices, in line with UNGA Resolution 47/199.

My delegation has already announced its intention to launch at the Conference a reform initiative and we have begun, work on these ideas on the basis of UNGA Resolution 48/162 should apply across the UN System. The sorts of things we would include would be the removal of the entire duplication of work as between the Technical Committees, the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council and Conference; the removal of all costly and unnecessary services of these meetings which have long been dispensed with in other parts of the UN system; the drastic shortening of documentation and the duration of meetings. In short, Mr Chairman, a complete overhaul of current arrangements.

We shall also be seeking a greater governance role for Council to ensure that we have proper oversight of administrative matters and that costly mistakes of the past, like FINSYS, are avoided in the future.

Over the lifetime of the next biennium, these reforms would cut drastically the cost of meetings whilst also improving the way we do business.

To conclude, FAO is facing a severe challenge, which is not expected to be of a short-term nature. Zero-real growth can no longer be guaranteed. That is a reality and however much members might deplore this, it is nonetheless a fact of life. My delegation happens also to believe that quite apart from that budgetary reality, FAO is anyway an organization that is in need of streamlining and bringing into leaner shape. Therefore, we urgently request the Secretariat to go away from here and review its budget to return to the Conference with a clear set of proposals for prioritized cuts. This will require surgery and we are suggesting that the Secretariat might need the advice of external consultants working to a very clearly-defined TOR limited entirely to this exercise. We are fully aware of the time-scale but often the best work is done under pressure and what is needed is an outline of proposed cuts that will meet the requirements of funding realities. The Conference should be faced with a clear set of alternative proposals that can be implemented over the biennium period. It is my government's belief this can be done and that a leaner, more efficient FAO can emerge out of this process that will be much easier to defend in what is likely to be a difficult funding future.

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Además de hacer nuestra la declaración hecha por Francia en nombre de la Unión Europea y sus países miembros, mi delegación quiere aprovechar la ocasión para hacer algunos comentarios en este importante debate.

El Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996-97, que se nos ha facilitado en relación con este tema del Programa, presenta, como se dice en el propio documento, un cierto grado de novedad, al menos en algunos de sus apartados, para adaptarse a la nueva situación de la Organización, por lo que no es de extrañar que falte experiencia para enjuiciar el mismo. No obstante, creemos que se debe huir de establecer una mera comparación entre el contenido del actual y de los realizados en ocasiones anteriores, especialmente los presentados en los últimos años.

Estamos convencidos, señor Presidente, que lo que se denomina en el punto 3 del documento "fatiga de la ayuda" contra la que tienen que luchar las organizaciones internacionales, tiene una explicable justificación basada, entre otras cosas, en:

- Una situación mundial económica compleja.

Un número, cada vez mayor, de frentes a cubrir: producción de alimentos, conservación del medio ambiente, mantenimiento de la paz, etc.

Una amplia oferta de organizaciones gubernamentales y no gubernamentales para abordar los mismos o parecidos problemas.

- Etcétera.

Es por ello, señor Presidente, que los países demandan cada vez más de las organizaciones internacionales que sustentan un esfuerzo auténtico y lleno de ingenio para llegar a más con el mismo esfuerzo económico. La disminución de los gastos administrativos al aprovechar al máximo las oportunidades que las nuevas tecnologías de la informática ofrecen, la reducción de los cuantiosos gastos que las reuniones ocasionan, llevando al mínimo indispensable su periodicidad, duración y nivel, etc., forman parte de esta demanda.

No cabe duda, y así lo reconoce nuestra delegación, que varias de las últimas iniciativas de la FAO en los últimos tiempos, como el Programa de Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo, el Programa de Colaboración de la FAO con centros de investigación y de estudio de los distintos países, el Programa de utilización de jubilados de reconocido prestigio o el de Técnicos locales, van en esa dirección. Es por ello, por lo que nuestra esperanza en estas medidas es alta, y la disposición de nuestro gobierno a colaborar con las mismas está demostrada por el apoyo que viene prestando a todas ellas. El futuro cercano dirá el grado de éxito a que llevará cada una de las mismas.

Dando un salto en relación con el Documento y pasando al punto 81 del mismo, en el que se explica la estructura programática revisada, expresamos, señor Presidente, nuestra aceptación provisional a su contenido, si bien, como indicábamos al comienzo, falta la experiencia suficiente para juzgar ciertos aspectos, como la posible identificación más precisa entre los Programas Ordinario y de Campo, por el hecho de eliminar las líneas presupuestarias identificadas separadamente como "apoyo a los programas de campo", que ahora aparecen en forma conjunta en el Capítulo 2.

Asimismo, señor Presidente, no podemos dejar de hacer referencia a la preocupación a que nos lleva la interpretación que en el documento se da al criterio "crecimiento cero" del presupuesto. Es indudable que los conceptos bienalización e inflación (de fácil comprensión teórica), convertidos en artificios matemáticos, llevan al simple resultado de un aumento de presupuesto del 11,7 por ciento y, a la postre, un aumento de cuota del mismo porcentaje. También se entiende perfectamente que, matemáticamente, el porcentaje de aumento, con relación al bienio 1992-93 haya sido del 9y4 por ciento, y que el porcentaje de aumento anual entre 1992 y 1997 sea del 2,3 por ciento. Pero esta envoltura no evita que a los gobiernos haya que presentarles las cuotas anuales en cifras, 1995 frente a 1996.

Por otra parte y, teniendo en cuenta que es preceptivo aplicar los reajustes de la escala de cuotas de Naciones Unidas, España pasará del 2,26 por ciento en el bienio 1994-95, al 2,55 por ciento en 1996, y al 2,56 por ciento en 1997. Por lo que, si aplicamos este porcentaje al presupuesto total de 693,2 millones de dólares, a España le corresponderá pagar 17,74 millones de dólares en dos años, o dicho de otra forma, tendremos un incremento, exclusivamente derivado del reajuste de las cuotas, del 13,27 por ciento, por efecto del reajuste de las cuotas, en relación con la cantidad efectivamente ingresada en el actual bienio.

De esta manera, nuestro país se consolida como el octavo contribuyente de la Organización, posición que ya ocupamos desde hace varios años pero que a partir de ahora lo será de forma más nítida.

Sabemos perfectamente que éste no es el Foro para discutir la bondad o no del sistema de cuotas aplicado por Naciones Unidas pero, teniendo en cuenta el fuerte incremento que el reajuste de las mismas supone para mi país, hemos considerado oportuno ponerlo de manifiesto, ya que condiciona de forma importante nuestra actitud ante el incremento de las cuotas propuesto.

Siguiendo el razonamiento anterior, de aprobarse el presupuesto que aquí discutimos, con un incremento de las cuotas del 11,7 por ciento, para España se traduciría en un incremento total del 26,53 por ciento, repito, del 26,53 por ciento, lo que se considera, en estos momentos de reajuste presupuestario en nuestro país, un incremento excesivo, y que en consecuencia no estamos en condiciones de poder aceptar.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, y en base a la invitación que usted hizo ayer a los países miembros, en el sentido de animarnos a pagar puntualmente nuestras contribuciones, quisiera aprovechar la ocasión para comunicarles que mi Gobierno está ultimando los trámites administrativos para hacer efectiva, en los próximos días, la cuota tal del actual ejercicio, con lo que España habrá cumplido, una vez más, puntualmente con sus obligaciones financieras ante la Organización.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I would like to refer to some former decisions we have taken as a Member State in this Organization, whether in this Council or in its subsidiary bodies. We have tried to understand the impact of these decisions on the Programme of Work of the Organization and the activities of its Secretariat and Management.

First, Council decision 106 unanimously adopted, which approved the plan submitted by the Director-General with a view to restructuring the Organization and setting up two new special programmes; one for the reinforcement of food security in least-developed countries and EMPRES, as well as the implementation of decentralization while approving a number of measures and actions with a view to realizing economies and savings in the budget of the Organization. We all know that restructuring and achievement of positive results therefrom need time and effort.

The savings achieved and the rationalization of the different bodies within the Organization have been made while the measures and actions were being implemented. The second decision is the one adopted by the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees held in January this year, where they approved a real zero growth budget for the next biennium. It included a request for consideration of re-costing, taking into account the conditions prevailing in some countries which might face difficulties in increasing their contributions to the level proposed. We have before us the decision adopted by the Finance and Programme Committees in the joint meeting in document CL 108/14 at paragraphs 1.4 to 1.6, which reflects an agreement on the real zero growth of the budget, which reiterates such an agreement while excluding the payment of arrears in the contributions of Member States and welcoming savings resulting from measures for the rationalization of the work of the Organization, taken by the Management. At the same time, it requested renewed efforts to achieve more savings while maintaining the technical output of the Organization. I would like to reiterate this sentence while preserving and maintaining the technical output of the Organization.

We have also decisions taken by Committees on Fisheries, Commodities, Forestries and Agriculture, which Mr Wade has referred to. In those decisions we, as Member Nations, have requested the Organization to provide support for a number of programmes which need additional financial resources. Now that those decisions have been adopted by Council as well as by the different committees and bodies of the Organization, I cannot find a way for this Organization to do anything but respect our former decisions and resolutions without allowing any modifications thereto. If we do that, we risk sending a serious message to the Organization, namely that we have less interest in its achieving its goals and objectives, and we also send a wrong message to the international community to the effect that we do not pay as much attention and as much interest to the performance of this Organization in the service of countries needing the assistance of FAO. I believe that our message needs to be received in various countries but with another meaning, namely that we are concerned to see a tendency towards retrenchment in international action and that all together developed and developing countries have commitments to bear in support of international action, in particular, through our Organization, in the service of countries which need it.

Within my support for what has been stated by the distinguished delegate of Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Group, allow me to note the decision taken by the G 77 in this regard at its meeting on 31 May, when it supported a real zero growth budget for the Organization for the biennium 1996-1997.

I can only recommend to this Council the adoption of the joint recommendation adopted in the joint meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees, which is contained in paragraph 1.1.2 of the joint reports of those Committees, where it is requested that the Council ask the Director-General to continue preparing the full Programme of Work and Budget on the basis of the SPWB before us while taking into account the views expressed by both Committees, as well as the recommendations of the technical committees which held recent meetings.

As the representative of Egypt, I would like to reaffirm our support for some of the programmes within the Agricultural Committee programmes (COAG), which all called for, in particular, biological control and the Desert Locust Control Programme, including the establishment of a reserve fund for intervention in case of emergency, as well as the EMPRES programme, which we have all supported, and also the international management of Animal Genetic Resources and the establishment of a centre on that subject within our Organization.

Aldo PUGLIESE (Italy): The Italian Delegation would like to put forward some comments on the document Summary of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97 in addition to the Statement made by the Presidency on behalf of the EU and its Member States, with which we agree.

We are aware that the proposed budget is based on indicative figures, depending on several factors, such as the impact of the fluctuation of the dollar/lira exchange rate and the costs of staff, human resources and operating expenses, which are difficult to forecast with precision.

We wait for more detailed indications, in the final version of the Programme of Work and Budget about the impact of the restructuring process on the different sources of costs. We share the opinion of the Finance and Programme Committees on the need to make further efforts to increase the efficiency of the Organization and to optimize the use of available resources.

We appreciate the efforts already made by FAO to reorient the resources in order to allow the new structure of the Organization to better perform, and to achieve the main objectives approved by the Council.

In this context, we express satisfaction for the strengthening of the capacities of the Division for the Analysis of Agricultural and Economic Development and of the Department for Sustainable Development, which will certainly contribute to the improvement of the normative role of FAO, which has to remain a Centre of Excellence.

We welcome also other important initiatives aimed at strengthening the partnership of FAO with other UN Agencies, the World Bank and some other important institutions. We have already stressed the importance of inter-agency collaboration, in particular with WFP and IFAD, which, we repeat, has to be further strengthened.

Furthermore, we understand that important savings will be made by reducing the number of publications and the duration of meetings and decreasing the number of staff. However, we would like to stress that the mere downsizing of personnel is not always the right and the only solution. Productivity can be increased and, in any case, quality and standards cannot be maintained if cuts are carried out in an indiscriminate way.

We also appreciate the innovations introduced into the structure of the FAO programme, through the reorganization of chapters 2 and 3, as described in paragraph 81. We are aware that these innovations will increase the transparency of FAO activities by identifying also a clearer link between the Regular and the Field Programmes.

We agree with the priorities set out in paragraphs 90 to 104 of chapter 5, whereby an appropriate distinction between main and lower priorities of the Organization is made. This distinction must be kept in account when budgetary reductions affecting financial and personnel resources are made. In fact, as said before, budgetary cuts cannot be indiscriminate. Operational activities should be safeguarded as much as possible.

The Italian Government has always supported the principle of financial rigour. We believe that all organizations belonging to the UN family should elaborate their own programmes and budgets, **taking** into consideration the financial constraints of the Member States, and seeking to optimize the cost-efficiency ratio.

The amount of financial resources requested by FAO, and indeed by each UN Agency, must be quantified consistently with its real requirements for addressing effectively the priorities that each organization faces to fulfil its institutional mandate. FAO has a relevant role to play and of course we do not want to weaken its capacity. We are not asking for a reduction in the Programme of Work and Budget, which would jeopardize FAO's activities in areas deserving a high priority level.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we think that the Secretariat should take into due account the remarks made by this Council on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and should seek all possible further reductions, bearing in mind that the ongoing programmes, such as Food Production and Food Security; sustainable development and forestry; follow-up on ICN recommendations etc., and other operational activities as a whole, should be maintained at a satisfactory level.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, I would first of all like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for his comprehensive proposal on the Programme of Work and Budget for the Biennium 1996-97 contained in document CL 108/3 now under discussion. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for an excellent preparation and presentation of the document.

This is the first Programme of Work and Budget the Director-General has prepared for our Organization since assuming office, and the Indonesian Delegation believes he has taken into account every aspect of this Organization, namely administrative, personnel, legal matters, Member Nations' concerns, Headquarters, regional and sub-regional interests, as well as its prospects, revenues, costs and programme priorities. My delegation would therefore like to join other Members of the Council in giving full support to the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97 for submission to the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference in October 1995. I also would like to associate myself with the remarks of the representative of Egypt on behalf of the G 77 in supporting its Programme of Work and Budget.

Mr Chairman, allow me to make a few observations on the document before us. First, the Indonesian Delegation fully understands and is concerned by the difficult situation faced by FAO in dealing with the financial constraints, as clearly stated in document CL 108/4 at paragraphs 3.2.8 to 3.4.7.1 very much appreciate the Government of Spain's intention to make its full payment to FAO in 1995, which will hopefully be followed by other members. This is positive news for our Organization and its members.

In this context, I would like to reiterate my statement of yesterday that we should look for alternative ways and means of helping our Organization and ask Member Nations who have not yet met their responsibilities to FAO to do so. Secondly, the Indonesian Delegation welcomes the estimated amounts of US\$60 million and US\$65 million for extra-budgetary resources to be received from UNDP in 1996 and 1997 respectively, even though those figures are lower than the figures for 1994 and 1995, which were US\$95 million and US\$79.5 million, respectively.

We appreciate and thank UNDP for their continued support to FAO.

Thirdly, we would like also to thank all donors concerned for the increase of the Trust Funds cooperation project amounting to US\$180 million each year for 1996 and 1997 respectively. This is an important component in supporting the work of FAO to assist the developing countries.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation appreciates the proposal made by the Director-General as stated in document CL 108/3 with a limited budget available. This will enhance a new major project, namely the activity on Sustainable Development and a Special Programme Trust as well as a Major Programme Field Operations which places emphasis on technical assistance and EMPRES operations to promote and increase food production in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries.

Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany): I would first of all like to thank the Secretariat for the careful preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1996/97, Mr Wade, for his introduction and the interesting information he has given us on the financing of the World Food Summit. Likewise, my delegation expresses its gratitude to the Programme and Finance Committees whose deliberations allow us to deal with this agenda item in a thorough and constructive way. I would like to thank Professor Bommer for his introduction to the Report of the joint meeting of these two Committees. These documents reflect the difficult task of preparing the forthcoming Budget within the framework of the still ongoing process of the restructuring of a Secretariat.

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union and its Member States regarding the Programme of Work and Budget.

As to the Programme of Work, I will be very short because this issue was dealt with quite extensively in the statement of the European Union and of other speakers. I would only mention two points: firstly, we endorse strongly what the Programme and Finance Committees have stated in their joint Report on the importance of providing to the best possible extent clear targets and planned outputs for the biennium at element and sub-programme levels. Secondly, programme activities should focus on the most pressing demands on FAO and in the areas of undisputed comparative advantage of the Organization.

Mr Chairman, let me now turn to Budget matters and firstly to the execution of the current and secondly to the preparation of the forthcoming budget.

Document CL 108/3, paragraph 17, points out that the deficit in the Budget for 1994/95 is expected to increase further. In view of this, like my distinguished colleague from Brazil, I would like to appeal again to all members of the Organization to honour their financial obligations and, at the same time, appeal also to the Secretariat to keep the expenditure in line with the resources actually available. I know that this is your policy, Mr Director-General. If for financial reasons the programme cannot be fully implemented then parts of it must be postponed or reduced and additional efficiency savings must be made.

We have noted with satisfaction the announcement by the Secretariat in the Finance Committee meeting last April that reductions are made. This is, in fact, necessary because an increasing deficit would ultimately have to be covered by reliable contributors from all regions. It is in the self-interest of the Organization that those contributors should be encouraged rather than *de facto* be burdened further by their loyal support to FAO.

As far as the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97 is concerned, I would like to welcome, like practically all previous speakers, the return by the new Director-General to sound financial practices, i.e., not to reduce the assessments by expected, but never fully recovered, payments of arrears. I like to recall that the German Delegation at the last Conference had expressed serious reservations against this approach and had cautioned about the risks involved in this procedure proposed by the Secretariat at that time.

In document CL 108/3 it is stated that there is no real growth foreseen in the 1996/97 Budget. At the same time the expectation is expressed for higher extra-budgetary resources with a view to implementing new activities.

We share the preoccupations in this connection which have been expressed by other delegations and wish to add only that if activities are to be funded from extra-budgetary resources full funding of such activities, including the follow-up costs, must be ensured. No items should be created in the extra-budgetary sector which could cause the need for financing such activities later from the Regular Budget and thus lead to an additional Regular Programme growth.

We appreciate the Director-General's efforts to reduce the estimated costs increases from US\$ 59 million to 31.8 million for the 1996/97 biennium. However, we have to face realities. Mr Wade mentioned this morning the increase in salaries which had not been included and my Italian colleague mentioned the other risks that, for instance, when it comes to approving the Budget at the 28th Session of the Conference next October inflationary trends may prove to be different from the assumptions in document CL 108/3; the same holds true of the Lira/US\$ exchange rate. Both these factors might increase the financial requirements of our Organization. Consequently, the Member States' assessed contributions, already at present estimated to rise much too much, i.e. by 11.7 percent, may increase even further. We therefore see an urgent need for lowering the Budget estimates by reducing the volume of the Programme in areas of low priority and in areas where FAO has no clear comparative advantage over other organizations and private institutions, as well as reducing the volume by efficiency savings.

Mr Chairman, finally I feel unfortunately obliged to say that we are very concerned about what the delegation of an important donor has said today about foreseeable limitations concerning its capacities for arrear payments, for payments on the current Budget and for its contribution to the Budget 1996/97. We are worried about the consequences this will have for the work and the maintenance of the financial viability of our Organization. We therefore sincerely hope that these concerns will be duly transmitted to the competent decision-makers who carry a heavy responsibility because it is now a very difficult and also urgent task of the Secretariat to develop, under new financial parameters, concrete proposals for the Biennium 1996/97 which accommodate these necessities and limitations. My delegation, in conjunction with the Director-General and other Member States, is ready to cooperate constructively or, as the Delegate of Burkina Faso stated, in a team spirit in these certainly painful exercises which the British Delegation so drastically described as a surgical exercise.

Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroon): Taking the floor for the first time in this Session of the Council as a new member, my delegation is very happy to work under your pleasant leadership and we thank you for the kind words you said on our re-admission.

First of all, I would like to express our appreciation to Mr Wade and Dr Bommer for their respective excellent introductions and I would also associate my delegation with the statement made earlier by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Burkina Faso on behalf of the African countries, Members and Observers.

After going through all the documentation related to this item on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, we are very pleased to note that both the Finance and Programme Committees have made a comprehensive and thorough review of this subject and their pertinent and relevant recommendations, which we share in general, as contained in their respective and joint report.

However, the Cameroon delegation would like to add the following comments: Firstly, the 1996-97 biennium will be a historic bench mark in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget in many regards considering, *inter alia*, that it will be the first Programme of Work and Budget prepared and executed by the Director-General, Dr. Jacques Diouf. There are very unfavourable conditions determining the development assistance and the need to reshape the programmes and activities in order to reflect the new organizational structure approved by the Council at its 106th Session.

Nevertheless, the Cameroon Delegation is confident that the Member States of FAO will translate concretely and eloquently the overwhelming support that they have expressed to the Director-General and to the mandate of the FAO. The Cameroon delegation welcomes and commends the Director-General for the intensive consultations and dialogue he has established with Member States and with their representatives in Rome in the elaboration process of the PWB. In that respect, while agreeing with the programme of the Finance Committee that the prioritization exercise through a questionnaire to collect governments' priorities on the Organization programmes and activities should not substitute the usual consensus-building process among the Member States within the appropriate bodies, it should be noted that, in countries such as mine, it has yielded very positive effects for it has brought the Government to set up an interministerial committee to undertake the priority-ranking exercise.

So it is our hope that such a survey will be regularly conducted and, in order to achieve greater prioritization and more focused decentralization, similar exercises through appropriate mechanisms should be undertaken at subregional and regional levels.

The Cameroon Delegation welcomes the Director-General's efforts of rationalizing and streamlining the Organization's structure, which would yield substantial costs savings. We are also convinced that these savings would be enhanced, together with the effectiveness of the Organization, by the envisaged measures of programmes and structures decentralization, reinforce national capacities, and intensify technical economic cooperation among developing countries. Thus, we affirm our strong support to the use of National Projects' officers and to the creation of additional sub-regional offices, including one in the Central African region.

On the overall budget for the 1996-97 biennium, we are pleased to note the consensus reached by the Finance and Budget Committee on the overall "real zero growth" in the budget and the exclusion of payments of arrears in the determination of assessment of Member Nations.

The Cameroon Delegation considers that this is a very responsible and realistic basis, taking into consideration the prevailing environment for building up the consensus over the budget all the way through the Conference. In the same line the efforts already deployed by the Director-General in absorbing the substantial costs increases are very comforting prospects for the Council and the Conference decisions. However, it is our view that the absorption of costs increases beyond a certain level puts at risk the Organization's most valuable assets, which are its excellent professionalism and its capacities to respond effectively and adequately to the Member States' needs. We all know that there are some incomprehensible costs such as inflation and salaries increases. As for the staff salaries increases, that is contained in paragraph 3.13 of the document CL 108/14 and confirms it will be certain in the next biennium. I believe that those of us living in Rome face every day this unpleasant reality.

The Cameroon Delegation endorses the priorities as outlined in section V of the document CL 108/3, particularly the improvement of food production and food security in low-income and food-deficit countries. We note that the implementation of the concerned programmes would require consistent extra-budgetary support which we hope that FAO will be able to mobilize through appropriate consultations and coordinations with bilateral and international institutions. However, we would like to point out that certain programmes labelled as "low priority" in paragraph 105 of the same document are essential to the implementation of the high-priority ones. For instance, Programmes 2.1.4 (Agricultural support systems, farming system and work,

small-scale agro-industrial activities, and normative work on marketing and small finance) and 2.2.2 (Food and agricultural information, assistance for preparation of the 2000 World Census of Agriculture).

We would like to have clarification on how the new status of "low-priority area" of these programmes and activities will be expressed. Are they going to receive reduced budget allocation or will they just be cancelled?

Concerning the Programme Budget, my delegation takes note that it has not been possible, at this stage of the process, to present the restructured programmes with the budget allocation for the biennium 1994-95. This would have allowed us to appreciate to some extent the shift in priorities. We welcome the comments made in the final version that there will be some indication. Also, my delegation notes the absence of any reference to the roots, tubers, and bananas in paragraph 145, sub-paragraph 2.1.2.2.

On specific issues, we would like to point out that:

An effective implementation of FAO's policy advice function requires, among others, an adequate level of field operations. That is why we deplore the substantial decline observed in the level of extra-budgetary field programmes, aggravated by the quasi-stagnation of the TCP resources, in spite of the anticipated increases in TCP activities by US\$4.8 million as a result of the use of low-cost experts that paragraph 100 of document CL 108/13 refers to.

In implementing the priority areas of facilitation of international trade, we would request that the pertinent recommendations made by the Committees on Food and Security and on commodities problems concerning the assistance required by the developing countries to cope with the impact of the GATT Agreement be fully integrated in the final version of the PWB and implemented.

While endorsing the recommendations of the Director-General contained in paragraph 108, we would like to receive more details of the possible sources of the additional incomes to implement supplementary programmes and activities.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like to put on record the support of the Cameroon Delegation for the "real zero growth" of the 1996-1997 budget using the 1994-1995 basis. Also, in order to alleviate the burden of the assessments of member countries, we call on the Director-General to pursue his efforts to absorb the cost increases to the extent that it will not damage the Organization's programmes and activities and its capacities to execute its mandate in the most effective and efficient way.

Mr Chairman, be patient with me for only two minutes more, for my delegation now wishes to make a very special and sincere appeal to whom it will concern.

Mr Chairman, if all the men in the world were one man, what a great, mighty man he would be.

If all the trees in the world were one tree, what a mighty, huge tree it would be.

If all the axes in the world were one axe, what a huge, sharp axe it would be.

If all the oceans and seas in the world were one, what a wide ocean of waters that would be.

And if the great, mighty man were to take his huge, sharp axe and fell the mighty, huge tree and let it fall in the wide, deep ocean, then what a deafening splash with tremendous vibrating ripples and ramifications that would be.

Mr Chairman, let me be courageous and call the United States of America the great, mighty man.

The Cameroon Delegation deeply and sincerely regrets the decision of the American Delegation concerning its position on its contribution to the FAO funds. We are mindful of the fact that every sovereign nation gives priority to its own national domestic responsibilities, but still we would appeal to the US Delegation to convey this message contained in this, our short story, to its Government. The effects of its decision will go like wild ripples beyond the Atlantic, the Antarctic, and the Black and Mediterranean seas. It will affect, by and large, the original objectives of the FAO, this establishment, in 1945, to which the United States is a staunch and active member. We feel that if the United States Congress could shift priorities to funding of an organization or those organizations that are dedicated to work for eliminating hunger, poverty and anger and malnutrition

in the world, the US will be the great mighty man, not with an axe but with mighty, wide smiles that will send radiance all over the world.

A reduction of the budget of the FAO by 17 percent will leave the Organization virtually paralysed. In the world of international relations, there is always time to review actions.

We hope that by October, when the Conference will adopt the final Programme of Work and Budget, the US may review its position.

Salah HAMDI (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): Avant de donner lecture de la contribution de mon pays, je voudrais d'abord exprimer le soutien de mon pays pour ce qui a été dit par notre collègue, l'Ambassadeur du Burkina Faso, au nom de l'ensemble des pays du Groupe africain.

Après avoir pris connaissance des documents élaborés par le Secrétariat, après avoir écouté avec beaucoup d'attention le discours inaugural du Directeur général lors de la première séance du Conseil, et après avoir également écouté les excellents exposés de Messieurs Wade et Bommer, la délégation de mon pays voudrait apporter sa contribution au débat sur ce point de l'ordre du jour, en faisant part d'un certain nombre de remarques et de propositions.

Tout d'abord, le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1996-97 traduit la volonté de changement exprimée par le Directeur général lors de son entrée en fonction. De même, traduit-il le programme de restructuration approuvé par notre Conseil lors de sa cent sixième Session. Ce programme vise à l'amélioration des méthodes de travail de l'Organisation, à la rationalisation de ses formes d'intervention, au relèvement du niveau d'efficacité et de rentabilité de ses activités dans les différents domaines du développement de l'agriculture, et cela à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire de ses Etats Membres.

L'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget intervient en une période caractérisée par des restrictions budgétaires et par des déficits financiers auxquels l'Organisation doit faire face du fait de l'accumulation des arriérés et du manque de contribution par certains Etats Membres. Cela amène un certain nombre de pressions pour la détermination des priorités à établir dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget dans le prochain biennium.

En ce qui concerne les implications de la restructuration et des nouvelles orientations, nous nous félicitons des efforts déployés par le Secrétariat de la FAO en vue de redéployer les ressources humaines conformément aux priorités indiquées par le Programme de travail et budget, sans négliger les facteurs humains et en tenant compte des contraintes personnelles des membres du personnel et des cadres qui seront touchés par ce redéploiement. Nous espérons que les mesures visant à la décentralisations interviendront conformément au calendrier annoncé. De même, nous espérons que la restructuration permettra de réduire au maximum les coûts et les dépenses dans le cadre de la nouvelle approche, notamment en ce qui concerne la coopération technique, et que les économies ainsi générées profitent aux programmes d'extrême priorité.

D'autre part, nous saluons les efforts déployés par le Secrétariat en vue de relever le niveau d'efficacité et de rentabilité du Programme de coopération technique, tout en cherchant à faire ressortir les effets positifs pour les bénéficiaires.

En ce qui concerne l'établissement des priorités, tout en souscrivant à l'établissement ou à la définition de programmes d'extrême priorité, nous estimons qu'il faut accorder leur part d'importance aux autres programmes dans le cadre d'une approche holistique des programmes, et ce dans la limite des ressources disponibles, dans un souci de préserver l'équilibre entre les activités normatives et les activités opérationnelles, notamment les activités de terrain.

A ce propos la délégation de mon pays estime qu'en plus du programme relatif au renforcement de la production alimentaire, à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, en plus du programme spécial EMPRES de lutte contre les différents prédateurs et les différentes maladies qui touchent les animaux et les plantes, notamment la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin - à ce propos je voudrais souligner l'importance du fond de financement des opérations de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin - en plus de ces deux programmes - et je pense notamment à ce qui a été dit dans le paragraphe 2.25 du rapport du Comité du Programme - il faudrait aussi apporter aux activités relatives au renforcement du développement durable de l'agriculture, telles que la conservation des ressources naturelles, la rationalisation et l'utilisation des

ressources hydriques, le renforcement de la recherche scientifique et le développement technologique, un appui leur assurant leur part d'importance dans les choix programmatiques de l'Organisation, tout en veillant au suivi des implications des accords relatifs à l'agriculture issus du cycle des Négociations d'Uruguay, en vue d'aider les pays concernés à assurer leur restructuration agricole et leur adaptation aux nouvelles dispositions créées par la libéralisation des échanges, et notamment à faire face aux implications pour l'équilibre de leur balance commerciale. Je pense aux pays d'Afrique et du Proche-Orient qui sont importateurs nets de produits alimentaires.

Pour ce qui est du Programme de coopération technique, nous estimons qu'il est nécessaire, dans le cadre des ressources disponibles, de chercher à mettre en application la décision prise par la Conférence lors de la dernière session et qui consiste à attribuer 17 pour cent des ressources budgétaires à ce programme.

De même espérons-nous voir les nouveaux accords de coopération technique passés par l'Organisation avec un certain nombre de pays Membres entrer en vigueur afin que l'on puisse en voir les implications sur le programme de coopération technique de manière à lui faire gagner en efficacité et en rationalité.

Pour ce qui est du budget, notre délégation souhaite réitérer l'expression de sa préoccupation quant à la situation difficile à laquelle se trouve confrontée la FAO et ce, compte tenu du non-paiement des contributions et de l'accumulation des arriérés, situation qui a contraint l'Organisation à choisir l'option du niveau zéro de croissance du budget. Or une telle option ne peut, à notre sens, que nuire à la bonne marche des activités de l'Organisation lors des années à venir et risque d'émousser ses activités dans des domaines que nous considérons vitaux notamment le développement de l'agriculture pour faire face à la malnutrition et à la faim et son activité visant à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire notamment dans les pays en développement. Tout en souscrivant au niveau zéro de croissance du budget, compte tenu de la situation financière actuelle de l'Organisation et dans le cadre de la recherche d'un consensus autour de ce principe au sein de ce Conseil, nous espérons que le Secrétariat de l'Organisation parviendra à trouver les voies et moyens susceptibles de préserver le niveau d'activité des programmes arrêtés dans le cadre des priorités au niveau du Programme de travail et budget sans que cela ne touche négativement les équilibres financiers de l'Organisation et que le Secrétariat parvienne aussi à maîtriser davantage l'augmentation des coûts dans le cadre de son oeuvre inlassable de rationalisation et d'amélioration des méthodes de travail dans les différents domaines d'intervention.

La question de la rarefaction des ressources n'en demeure pas moins posée. Il y va de la survie de l'Organisation et de sa continuation à s'acquitter de son rôle qui consiste à venir en aide aux Etats Membres en matière de développement agricole et en matière de lutte contre la pauvreté et à veiller à assurer la sécurité alimentaire. Afin d'essayer d'apporter des solutions à ce problème nous réitérons notre appel à l'ensemble des Etats Membres afin qu'ils se penchent sérieusement sur le paiement des contributions et le règlement de leurs arriérés afin que l'on traduise la volonté politique réelle qui veut le renforcement de cette organisation à un moment où elle s'apprête à fêter le cinquantième anniversaire de sa création et à un moment où nous nous préparons à réunir le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation dans un climat généralement positif qui s'est reflété favorablement sur les différentes réunions des organes directeurs et des comités techniques de notre Organisation.

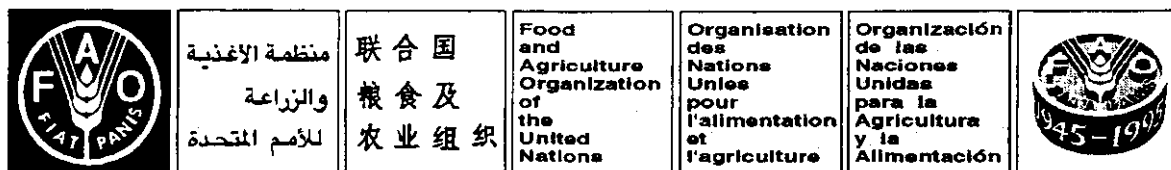
Ceci dit, ce que nous avons pu entendre ce matin n'est guère à même de susciter l'optimisme. En effet, il semble que même le niveau zéro de croissance du budget qui a été pourtant approuvé par les comités techniques, le Comité financier et le Comité du programme, ne fait pas l'objet de l'approbation de certains Etats Membres ce qui est certes un motif de préoccupation pour nous. Dans ce sens, j'estime qu'il serait peut-être utile de penser à mettre sur pied un groupe de travail pour étudier la situation financière future de l'Organisation et ce, dans le cadre de l'élaboration d'une stratégie à moyen terme. Ceci permettrait d'ouvrir la voie à un débat franc sur la situation future et de préserver le consensus qui a jusqu'à maintenant caractérisé les débats de cette organisation.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.

9 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session · Cent huitième session · 108º período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

9 June 1995

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00
hours Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15
heures sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima plenaria a las 15.00
horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

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

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

16. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97 (continued)

16. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1996-97 (suite)

16. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996-97 (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes distinguidos delegados. Se abre la décima sesión plenaria de nuestro Consejo. Tenemos una lista abundante de oradores y entenderán ustedes que es mi intención terminar con los debates de este tema del día de hoy.

Las diversas posiciones creo que han sido ya identificadas con claridad. Yo creo que los oradores de esta tarde podrían, quizá, ayudarnos a acelerar el paso y referirse, en la medida de lo posible, a los oradores que les han precedido, recortando así su declaración. Esta es una simple sugerencia de la Presidencia.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, me voy a permitir ofrecer inmediatamente la palabra a la delegación de la India.

G. BALAKRISHNAN (India): Mr Chairman, the Delegation of India has taken note of the reports of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. It would indeed have been most appropriate if on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the FAO there had been a substantial surge in the volume and scope of the activities of the FAO, particularly in the field. However, we do appreciate the constraints imposed by the financial situation of the Organization and feel that, in the circumstances, we should now accept the proposal of the Director-General and the recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees and settle for a zero real growth budget for the 1996-97 biennium.

In this context, we would once again like to stress that the situation be tackled by enhancing the availability of resources on the one hand and reducing the administrative expenditure on the other. We would like to point out that we have been very regular in our payment to the FAO. The current year's budget has since been passed by our Parliament and we will shortly be paying our contribution for 1995. We would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all the Member Nations, particularly the developed ones, to send in their contributions, including the arrears, immediately to enable FAO to perform its tasks efficiently and without any uncertainty. After all, the functioning of FAO is our joint responsibility and the best gift we can give to FAO on its Fiftieth Anniversary is to strengthen it financially, thereby ensuring that its activities and programmes are carried out on schedule.

At the same time, we have appreciatively noted the sincere efforts made by the Director-General to reduce administrative expenditure so that more funds are made available for field programmes and for fresh initiatives like EMPRES and the Special Programme for Food Security for LIFDCs, particularly in Africa. We fully support the initiatives and the actions taken by the Director-General for restructuring and decentralizing the administration and for the recruitment of national Professional Officers and retired personnel. In particular, we commend his stress on the TCDC programme as a low-cost delivery system for technical expertise. We recall with pleasure that India was the first signatory to the TCDC agreement and we stand fully committed to providing technical assistance to other developing countries, particularly the LIFDCs in Africa, based on our long and successful experience in attaining macro level self-sufficiency in food and achieving substantial diversification of agriculture.

Before concluding, we would once again express the hope that the financial situation of FAO would immediately register adequate improvement to enable it to play its rightful role in promoting global food security and that, within the budgetary provisions, the field programmes would at least retain their present physical content and magnitude with the requisite financial support, even if they do not grow in the short term.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): Mr Chairman, I would like to add my thanks to Dr Bommer and Mr Wade for their introductions which were very useful.

My delegation welcomes the statement in the Director-General's introduction to this summary that he will remain attentive to all the opinions expressed by members. This summary certainly moves in this direction and we hope and are confident that the more detailed Programme of Work and Budget to be considered by our committees and the Conference will also reflect that commitment.

I turn now to the financial content of the Report. In the current economic climate the all important issue here is what will be the level of the assessed Member Nations' contributions towards this year's budget. What is being proposed is an increase of over US\$72 million or 11.7 percent. Many member countries both developing and developed - and I include my own among these - will have difficulty in meeting their assessed percentage of this increase. This comes at a time of increasing and competing international demands on limited national resources.

This reaction which FAO is receiving obviously does not come as a surprise. Pressures on national public budgets are recognized at paragraph 22 and reference is made to the current restrictions imposed on public expenditure in many countries at paragraph 24.

Pragmatism must be shown in the determination of the level of the Budget. It must be set at a realistic level, one which is achievable and enables all members to meet their financial obligations to the Organization. If it is not, then the problem of arrears is exacerbated. A situation develops where some members increasingly have to carry others and make a disproportionate contribution to the Programme of Work. This is an inequitable situation which cannot be expected to continue. If it does it will be to the detriment of the Organization as a whole.

I would like to also put on record that Australia and New Zealand - one of the countries in the region we represent at this Council - would not be willing to pick up the shortfall in contributions of any other FAO member countries resulting from too high a Budget being set.

On the impact of restructuring and new policy orientations, we congratulate the Director-General on this streamlining structure and more cost-effective modalities mentioned at paragraph 60 and the savings arising therefrom which are to be ploughed back into the operations of the Organization to meet the demands of existing and new priorities.

We are in general agreement with the approach listed at paragraph 66 under Adjustments to Staffing Structures, particularly: the search for leaner management structures; the redeployment to sub-regional offices; the support to the enhanced partnerships policy with institutions, NGOs and the private sector and the coordination of Policy Advisory Groups.

On priorities, as always, Australia is pleased to see prioritization in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget. This is the only way to make the best use of the limited resources available. I would like to make some brief comments on the priorities listed following paragraph 89.

In the area of Food Production and Food Security, paragraph 90, we particularly endorse the continuation of priority being given to improve water use and support to the expansion of irrigation, food quality controls, and integrated pest management. In the case of the latter, FAO's work has been very successful and must be considered a keyplank in our goal to improve global sustainable agricultural production and food security. Australia is pleased to be associated with this programme, particularly through the inter-country IPM relating to rice in South and Southeast Asia (which is now in its third phase) and has been a financial supporter of the project since its inception.

Under the EMPRES transboundary animal disease programme, we note the reference to possible expansion to other diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease. We remind FAO of the view of the last Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific that the programme should also cover foot-and-mouth disease particularly in that region.

The enhancement of policy advice, paragraph 93, is supported and we are pleased that the apparent reduction in resources to encouraging investment reflects cost efficiencies and not a reduction in capacity.

FAO is familiar with the high priority Australia gives to FAO's work in the facilitation of trade in agricultural products and we include in this sub-paragraph 2.2.4.2, Commodity Policies and Trade. Trade facilitations are an important means of both adding to global food security and improving the economies of developing countries. We were therefore pleased to see it given main priority status in paragraph 19 of document 95/4 for the recent COAG meeting and that it is included in the priorities in this summary. We strongly endorse the activities mentioned at paragraph 98, 193 and 203 of the summary which includes Codex and the Plant Protection Convention.

I would like to make a couple of comments, Mr Chairman, on Programme 2.5, Contributions to Sustainable Development and Special Programme Thrusts. This is a particularly interesting programme containing what we see as some of FAO's important sub-programmes such as Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit countries, Research and Women in Development.

We support FAO's work under Programme 2.5.5, Coordination and Promotion of Sustainable Development. This particular sub-programme is the focal point for promoting the implementation of UNCED agreements, including Agenda 21 programmes relevant to agriculture, forestry and fisheries and to ensuring that environmental, energy and sustainability considerations are incorporated throughout the programmes of the Organization. And, while on this sub-programme, I would like to register the support we give to the attention to be directed to small islands.

Mr Chairman, in this climate of financial constraints, my delegation is reluctant to point to areas of the summary where intended allocations to specific programmes should be reconsidered. I do make an exception, Mr Chairman, in the case of the Fisheries Programme and I do so on behalf of the countries of South West Pacific region.

I refer again to the importance of the Fisheries Industry to the economy of many of the small island Member Nations of our region. This was recognized by delegations to the recent ministerial level of COFI. We add our voice clearly to the urging by COFI that funds from the TCP be utilized for Small Islands Developing States Programme of Assistance and that this includes the small island nations of the South West Pacific.

On the subject of the Fisheries Data and Statistics under Sub-programme 2.3.1.2, we repeat the request we have made for a number of years now that there be a separation in the FAO statistics as regards Asia and the Pacific. This would be of benefit to both the regions involved. It is hoped the establishment of a sub-regional office in the Pacific will facilitate this.

We give full support to the promotion of the well-being of small-scale fisheries communities on the Programme 2.3.3, Fisheries Exploitation and Utilization.

M. Akhtar ALI (Bangladesh): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Allow me to express my delegation's appreciation to the Director-General and his colleagues in the Secretariat for preparing a generally balanced and realistic Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 1996-97 biennium. The Director-General has been constrained to prepare it within the framework of no real growth in budget level. At a time when priority needs of the development Member Nations for FAO assistance are more than ever before, the proposed budget will regrettably fall short of meeting those needs. However, we recognize the difficulties and the very limited flexibility that the Director-General has in making adequate provision in priority areas of need due to resource constraints.

Mr Chairman, we are happy to note that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget reflects the major policy orientations endorsed by the Council at its 106th Session. It also explains the full budgetary impact of the process of restructuring initiated last year and the savings generated by the streamlined structures including leaner management arrangements, reduction in overall cost of publications, reductions of General Service staff at the Headquarters as a result of improvements in office automation, and use of lower cost modalities to contract outside experts. We have also noted with satisfaction the total net reduction in

established posts and congratulate the Director-General for making it possible to expand the decentralized technical capacity of the Organization, in particular without any net increase of resources.

The Summary Programme of Work, Mr Chairman, and the Budget takes into account the programme priorities indicated by Member Nations in response to the Director-General's questionnaire in addition to those endorsed by the Council. Some priority activities, particularly the Special Programme for Food Production in Support of Food Security of LIFDCs, the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases, aquaculture development, policy advisory services to Member Nations, and Technical Assistance Programme deserve additional support in terms of both regular and extra-budgetary resources. We note with regret that the level of the TCP appropriation has been kept unchanged, although the Conference Resolution 9/89 called for TCP allocation to reach progressively 17 percent of the total budget. Although the Director-General assures us that some increase in project activities under TCP will be possible through lower cost of procuring technical expertise under the new cooperation agreements, we would request him to further explore the possibility of increasing allocation for TCP by shifting resources from lower priority areas to the extent possible.

Mr Chairman, the estimate of cost increases has been revised downward to US\$31.8 million from US\$59 million as originally envisaged. Although it is a significant reduction, it still represents an increase of 9.4 percent over the 1992-93 biennium as well as an increase of 11.7 percent in assessments. Since the budget would be basically funded by assessments on Member Nations, more stringent measures need to be taken by the management to minimize cost increases wherever possible. While we recognize the Director-General's commendable efforts to this effect, we hope that it will be possible to identify some more areas where expenditure could be curtailed by adopting further economic measures. The Summary Programme of Work and the Budget includes a provision of US\$900 000 to meet the foreseen cost of holding the World Food Summit in 1996. We feel that efforts should be made to absorb the costs to be incurred in 1996, in holding the Summit, fully from the extra-budgetary resources. If it proves too difficult, it should be ensured that no additional amount over and above the figure of US\$900 000 is spent from the regular budget on account of holding the Summit. Mobilization of required extra-budgetary resources for the purpose should be vigorously pursued. We would appreciate if the Secretariat could enlighten us on the progress made so far in this regard.

Mr Chairman, we would like to stress the importance of ensuring a secure resource base for FAO in order that the resource shortfalls do not adversely affect full implementation of the approved programmes. We hope the coming months will see more payment of current contributions and arrears by the Member Nations and further reduction in FAO's accumulated deficit. The Organization needs this support to function as a centre of excellence in its mandated areas.

In conclusion, with these comments, Mr Chairman, we endorse the summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97 biennium and look forward to the opportunity of reviewing the full Programme of Work and Budget later this year.

K. SHIMIZU (Japan): Thank you, Mr Chairman. My delegation also joins previous speakers who have commended the efforts of the Secretariat and Members of the Finance and Programme Committees to enable us to have exchanged views on this important issue of much interest to all member countries.

In particular, my delegation highly appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat to prioritize the work programmes. The exercise is a very important step in order to effectively and efficiently respond to the growing activities based on the extensive need of the member countries. This exercise should be further encouraged on a continuous basis.

I wish to make some specific comments and questions on the part of the high-priority areas and the lower priority areas among others contained in the document CL 108/3. On page 38, the first and second subparagraph of paragraph 90, they say "the funding for the special programme for food production in support of food security in LIFDCs and EMPRES are dependent on extra-budgetary support." My delegation should be enlightened by more detailed phrases on the estimate of these required resources and the way to secure the resources to implement those programmes.

Secondly, in the same paragraph, its third sub-paragraph, Japan supports especially the expansion of irrigation work of the three areas mentioned in the paragraph. In case of the integrated pests management, a balanced approach is required, giving appropriate consideration to the effective use of pesticides.

Further, referring to page 39, first sub-paragraph of the paragraph 92, "genetic-related activities are an important area for FAO." To my understanding, important activities on plant genetic resources are going on now. Its related meeting, as such, should be well planned and be effectively arranged. Some fund from the regular budget should be allocated for those activities in light of the importance of the issue.

Animal genetic activities are also important and should be promoted on a step-by-step basis, bearing in mind the importance to avoid an impact on plant-related activities.

Fourth, on the same page, the fourth sub-paragraph of paragraph 96, my delegation also supports the priority given to the updating work of the AT-2010. This paper is a very important input in projecting the future trend of the world food and agricultural situation and planning our future plans. Some updating activities are mentioned in paragraph 226. In so doing, the help of experts of member countries should be tapped to enhance the quality of the paper. Chiefly, my delegation also feels the contribution to the intergovernmental panel on forests be given priority in considering the PWB.

Now, go to the page 42, to the lower priority areas. The third sub-paragraph of the paragraph 106 - this is related to the work on feed and resources and feeding systems. My delegation wishes to keep certain activities related to this work as the feed resources are closely associated to the food security of human beings because they can be substitution for cereal food. In particular, this work should be considered in the context of the increased demand to come for livestock in developing countries.

Seventh, the seventh sub-paragraph of paragraph 106 in the same page, Japan also wishes the Secretariat to continue the analytical and the conceptual work on food security at a certain level in the framework of CCP activities in light of the importance of the food security.

Eighth, on page 42, paragraph 108, about items not covered in the report, it said that, quote, "the Director-General is asking the Council to consider a supplementary appropriation resolution to allow expenditure on the programmes to be covered subject to receipts of additional income," unquote.

I wish to seek from you, Mr Chairman, for clarification of the Secretariat, what is meant by the "additional income" referred to in the quote. It's a bit difficult for my delegation to support the resolution if it defies the real zero growth budget principle.

Mr Chairman, Japan supports any efforts to promote efficiency and effectiveness of this Organization, which is its standing instructions. It is recalled that Japan stressed the importance of the scrap and build principles in considering any reform of structure at the last Conference. This means when you build a new unit, you must abolish or scrap existing units. This principle should be standing always. In this context the current reform process is still to be promoted further.

In particular, it wishes to know the restructuring picture of the AF Department and GI Department, which, I believe, is to be restructured in the current reform process. The two departments should be integrated into one based on the above-said principles, and ADG posts should be reduced by one at least and the number of ADGs be kept at the same level at least before the reform.

Mr Chairman, field offices also will be another area to be addressed in the reform process or in broader perspectives if necessary. Having said, Mr Chairman, my delegation listened to the statement by USA yesterday, and today we are surprised. It's a regrettable development which may have a great impact on the PWB now before us in light of the USA's dominant financial position in this Organization. It may have serious implications on all the activities of this Organization as well as on the interests of every member country. That development may compel us to cut current and future activities and services substantially. In light of the importance and urgency of the development, it may be necessary for the Secretariat to consider necessary actions as a matter of reality before the Conference to come.

However, Mr Chairman, it should be underlined that Japan has attached importance to this Organization since its entry. Japan has completed the payment of its 1995 year's contribution as of 18 May, 95, which is a token of the said support. Its support of FAO remains unchanged, and it is prepared to act together with the interested Members for the more efficient and effective organization with a view to realizing the objectives of this Organization. In short, I report back this development to Tokyo for its careful consideration. I thank you Mr Chairman.

Aguinaldo LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert): Monsieur le Président, en souscrivant à la déclaration faite au nom du Groupe africain, la délégation du Cap-Vert voudrait, elle aussi, faire quelques considérations à propos du point 16 de l'ordre du jour.

Selon les décisions de la Conférence, le Conseil a approuvé une série de réformes organisationnelles et de programmes prioritaires dont la mise en oeuvre aura naturellement des retombées sur le Programme de travail et budget. Ces réformes feront de la FAO une organisation plus moderne et efficace et lui permettront de mieux s'acquitter de son mandat et de répondre aux sollicitations de ses Etats Membres, en particulier les pays en développement et les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire, comme en ont témoigné les débats à l'occasion de l'analyse des points de l'ordre du jour relatifs au rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et à la préparation du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1996-97 prend en considération, d'un côté, les réformes conduisant à une plus grande rationalisation des structures de l'Organisation, y compris la décentralisation, la hiérarchisation, les priorités traditionnelles et les nouvelles priorités, et, de l'autre, les difficultés financières plus ou moins graves et de nature diverse auxquelles se heurtent un nombre important des Etats Membres. Ainsi, il nous est proposé un budget à croissance réelle zéro qui suscite un règlement financier n'intégrant pas le recouvrement d'arriérés. Cette approche évitera aussi que le prochain exercice biennal ne commence pas avec un déficit évident et permettra la réalisation du Programme sans les sursauts vécus pendant l'exercice en cours en conséquence du non paiement des contributions des dernières années.

Le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier ont déjà pu constater le souci du Directeur général en ce qui concerne la transparence et la rigueur de la gestion. Des économies significatives ont été réalisées, ce qui facilite la mise en oeuvre de programmes prioritaires. La rationalisation et les accords de coopération avec les Etats Membres ont permis l'augmentation d'activités et de programmes sans entraîner des changements de crédits.

Le rôle irremplaçable que la FAO joue comme centre d'excellence dans le domaine de l'agriculture et dans le cadre de la coopération internationale est tellement important que personne, aujourd'hui, ne peut douter de l'utilité de l'Organisation ni même concevoir le monde sans elle. Il serait fastidieux de rappeler la priorité et l'importance pour les pays en développement, et plus particulièrement pour les pays africains, des programmes comme le Programme spécial de la production à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, l'EMPRESS, le PCT, la CTPD, ceux relatifs à l'aménagement des sols, à la diversification des cultures, à la conservation des produits, à la participation populaire - et j'en passe.

On ne discute pas seulement aujourd'hui du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour 1996-97; on discute de l'avenir de notre Organisation, du sort des 8 milliards de personnes qui peupleront la planète dans les trente années à venir.

Tout en espérant que le Secrétariat examinera toutes les possibilités de réduire au minimum les accroissements de coûts, ma délégation se permet de lancer un appel à tous les membres du Conseil pour qu'ils approuvent par consensus la proposition du sommaire de façon à ce que la Conférence puisse également adopter par consensus le Programme de travail et budget. Nous ne souhaitons pas que la cent huitième session du Conseil reste dans l'histoire de la FAO comme celle qui, pour la première fois, a approuvé un budget à croissance négative, surtout en un moment où nous avons approuvé les propositions du Directeur général et lui avons fait part de notre appui. Le moment est donc venu de concrétiser cet appui.

CONGMENG LIU (China) (Original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, we would first of all like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the documents for this agenda item. The Chinese delegation would like to express its views on these important agenda items. First, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97 proposed by the Director-General is, in general, in line with FAO's mandate and its ongoing restructuring efforts.

Therefore, it is acceptable to use it as the basis for further examination and discussion until the Conference at the end of this year.

The Chinese delegation fully supports the Director-General's decision to follow the approach of real zero growth in formulating the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. This is based on the fact that the Organization is now faced with serious challenges on the one hand, and the fact that all member countries still place high hopes on FAO on the other. This approach has also taken into account the difficulties of the poorest member countries and the wide-ranging pressure on national public budgets experienced by many countries. Therefore, the Director-General's proposal is fairly comprehensive, taking into consideration various factors.

Secondly, in setting the priorities of the Programme of Work and Budget, the Director-General has highlighted continuous reinforced support for member countries in their effort to boost food production on a sustainable basis and to achieve long-term food security. Therefore, we are in favour of the Director-General's decision to take food production and food security programmes as priorities of work for the next biennium. As is known to all, hunger, poverty and malnutrition remain common phenomena in the world, and the fact that many developing member countries, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America are still suffering severe food shortages. Thus the global food security is threatened. In this connection the Chinese delegation fully supports the Director-General's decision to take food production and food security as top priorities for the next biennium at a time when FAO's resources are limited. Meanwhile we would like to appeal to all other international agencies and those member countries which are capable of helping FAO financially to give their support to the Director-General's programme priorities. On the special programme for food security, China supports this programme and hopes that it will be smoothly implemented so as to play a significant role in global food security. We believe that all countries should try to solve the problems of poverty and malnutrition facing mankind, on the basis of mutual help and mutual development.

Thirdly, we support the budget increase in the Development Services Programme to Member Nations. This will be conducive to strengthening FAO's cooperation with its Member Nations and with its partners. However, we feel that the budget for the TCP programme has not been adequately increased.

Fourthly, the breakdown in the indicative budget for 1996-97 is made according to the principle of zero growth. However, we would like to suggest that the parts of cost increase should also be included in the breakdown so as to facilitate comparison between different programmes.

Fifthly, we have some small questions concerning the staff costs and non-staff costs in various programmes. Is there any change in these costs as compared with the previous biennium? How does it relate to the tables in paragraph 46, that is, what are the staff costs in personnel services?

In conclusion, the Chinese delegation, is supportive of the Director-General's measures for structural reform, decentralization, and making savings to enable the Organization to operate with the highest efficiency. To this end, the Director-General has taken initiatives in actively promoting TCDC, recruiting local experts and experienced national administrative officers, as well as pensioners from the UN system, strengthening FAO's country representations, recruiting national professionals and reducing unnecessary general publications which have helped to increase resources and improve cost effectiveness. At the same time, we appeal to those member countries which have not paid their assessed contributions to honour their financial obligations as soon as possible so as to enable the Organization to accomplish its historical mission on a firm financial basis.

Mansour Mabrouk SEGHAHER (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, as a response to your request, I will try to be brief from now on. At the outset, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the well-prepared documents concerning this agenda item. In order to avoid repetition, my delegation wishes to support the statement made this morning by the representative of Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Group and its 53 Member Nations.

Mr.Chairman, my delegation shares the views calling for an improvement in the capabilities of the Organization in order to shoulder its responsibilities towards the developing countries. We also seize this opportunity to renew our trust in the Organization, its management and personnel, and we also endorse the activities of the Organization hoping that it will be given a good chance to face future challenges in order to be able to implement its decisions whereby appropriate solutions would be sought in order to meet the needs of the food and agriculture sectors, in order to supply food for all humanity, and so that peace can prosper.

My delegation would like to make an appeal to all countries to pay their assessed contributions in the very near future so that the Organization can shoulder its responsibilities. My country will be paying its contributions in the very near future. The non-payment of contributions and non-support for the approved or proposed budget reflect a call to undermine multilateral international cooperation, and it is at the same time a trend towards bilateralism in international relations.

Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to submit two observations. The first is that the Organization should conclude the restructuring process as soon as possible, because this has lasted longer than expected and is overdue.

Secondly, we think that the Technical Cooperation Programme proved its efficiency and it helped the Organization assist Member Nations in facing natural catastrophes and emergencies and we do consider it important to increase the budgetary allotment of TCP and this is in compliance with the Conference Resolution 9/89.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation endorses the Director-General's proposal relating to the budget level for the 1996-97 biennium which, in fact, was supported by the Programme and Finance Committees and we do hope, Mr Chairman, that such a proposal will be accepted by consensus.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Monsieur le Président, je tiens à féliciter le Président du Comité du Programme, Monsieur Bommer, ainsi que Monsieur Wade pour la présentation très claire du sujet et les informations complémentaires et très utiles qu'ils nous ont fournies.

Ma délégation fait sienne la déclaration de la déléguée du Burkina Faso, au nom du Groupe africain.

Les documents CL 108/3 et 4 sont, pour notre délégation, des outils très précieux pour argumenter notre position en faveur de la proposition du Directeur général. Notre souhait est, bien entendu, de la voir partagée par l'ensemble des délégations ici présentes. Nous sommes, en tout cas, confiants car les comités spécialisés en la matière, au sein desquels sont d'ailleurs représentées toutes les régions, ont en quelque sorte fait leurs les concepts fondamentaux mis en exergue par le Directeur général dans sa présentation du projet, concepts qui, à notre humble avis, sont incontournables ou tout au moins difficiles à mettre en cause eu égard à leur pertinence et à l'absolue nécessité d'en tenir compte sous peine de mettre en péril un partenariat viable et durable entre Etats Membres.

Qu'il soit permis à ma délégation de les relever et de formuler quelques commentaires. D'abord, il se confirme que la session spéciale de janvier est une étape utile dans la préparation du sommaire car déjà, à ce stade, le Directeur général peut entrevoir si ses propositions, notamment en ce qui concerne le niveau du budget, pourraient rencontrer l'assentiment des Etats ou, au contraire, enregistrer leur refus et hypothéquer la réalisation du consensus aux étapes ultérieures. C'est ainsi que le principe de la croissance réelle zéro du budget, incompréhensible si l'on considère les besoins d'assistance croissants - pour ne pas dire considérables - de plusieurs Etats Membres, apparaît cependant inévitable lorsqu'on veut éviter une surcharge des contributions pour les Etats Membres. Si, malgré cela, les contributions se voient quand même augmentées de 11,7 pour cent, c'est malheureusement la conséquence d'une décision erronée de la Conférence, à sa dernière session; c'est aussi la conséquence déplorable, d'ailleurs, d'une promesse non tenue.

La mise en oeuvre des nouvelles orientations approuvées par le Conseil à sa cent sixième session constitue également une décision irrévocable. Le Directeur général doit aller de l'avant dans la restructuration et la mise en place des principales structures décentralisées. On doit d'ailleurs se réjouir avec les comités des économies qui seront réalisées et qui vont être utilisées pour financer ces nouvelles orientations. Parlant d'économies, ma délégation tient à féliciter le Directeur général d'avoir ramené les augmentations de coûts de

59 millions de dollars à 31 millions de dollars alors que de telles augmentations étaient de 76 millions de dollars dans le budget 1994-95 et de 82 millions de dollars dans le budget précédent, c'est-à-dire le budget 1992-93. Au vu de ces chiffres, on serait tenté de se demander quel sacrifice le Directeur général consentira pour soulager les Etats et, en revanche, quels programmes prioritaires demandés par ces mêmes Etats devra-t-il supprimer ou tout au moins mettre en veilleuse pour insuffisance de ressources.

C'est peut-être pour cela que le PCT continue de stagner, pour ne pas dire baisser, et de s'éloigner de plus en plus de l'objectif de 17 pour cent du budget prescrit par la Conférence dans sa Résolution 9/89.

A ce sujet, nous ne pouvons pas nous empêcher de nous poser la question de savoir si les résolutions de la Conférence ont force exécutoire.

Nous relevons, au paragraphe 100 du document CL 108/3, que les nouveaux accords de coopération avec les Etats Membres devraient permettre de dégager une économie de 4,8 millions de dollars que l'on pourrait utiliser pour le PCT. Espérons qu'il en soit effectivement ainsi.

Si la diminution sensible des prévisions pour augmentation des prix est appréciée par tous, en revanche, le déclin du Programme de terrain est déploré par tous ceux qui sont convaincus que ledit Programme est primordial et vital, aussi bien pour les pays bénéficiaires que pour le Secrétariat, dans la mesure où le Programme ordinaire n'aurait aucune base réelle sans le Programme de terrain. Les synergies existent, a déclaré ce matin le Représentant de la France en parlant du Programme ordinaire et du Programme de terrain. Le Comité du programme et le Comité financier ont estimé à juste titre que les deux types d'activités se renforcent mutuellement et l'on ne pourrait concevoir l'un sans l'autre. Il faudrait donc absolument trouver une solution durable et urgente à cette situation fort préoccupante.

En premier lieu, ma délégation souhaite que le PNUD, grand contributeur bien connu au fonds fiduciaire, puisse continuer à jouer ce rôle et mettre fin au déclin de sa participation qui, de 60 pour cent dans le passé, était réduite à 40 pour cent et diminuerait encore, semble-t-il, à 30 pour cent.

Dans le même ordre d'idée, c'est-à-dire la recherche de solutions aux problèmes du programme de terrain, nous apprécions grandement l'initiative heureuse du Directeur général de prospecter d'autres sources complémentaires et de s'associer à d'autres partenaires potentiels dont les apports seront pour le moins substantiels.

L'ouverture d'un bureau de liaison de l'Organisation à Bruxelles est une excellente initiative dans la mesure où l'on connaît la volonté manifeste de l'Union européenne de soutenir résolument tous les programmes pertinents de l'Organisation tendant à résoudre les problèmes de sécurité alimentaire dans les Etats Membres en développement.

L'ouverture d'un bureau au Japon est également reconnue par ma délégation comme une excellente décision.

Bien entendu, nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de la reprise du programme de coopération FAO/Banque mondiale et de l'intensification de la coopération FAO/FIDA et avec les autres banques et institutions financières intéressées par le développement agricole et la sécurité alimentaire. Bien entendu, tout en félicitant et en remerciant les Etats qui ont contribué généreusement au fonds fiduciaire jusqu'à présent, nous leur lançons un appel pour qu'ils continuent à contribuer au moins au même niveau que précédemment, car il faudra garantir le succès des programmes nouveaux requérant de tels fonds ainsi que les différentes rencontres mondiales que tous nous avons appuyées avec ferveur.

Nous espérons également que, malgré la limitation des ressources, le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire et l'EMPRES ne connaîtront pas de problèmes et pourront être promus avec le succès que nous sommes en droit d'attendre.

Je voudrais à présent faire quelques commentaires très brefs sur les programmes et sous-programmes.

D'abord, nous sommes un peu inquiets du fait que le niveau du budget ne permettrait pas la résolution du problème FYNSIS et PERSYS, alors que ce sont des outils indispensables pour la rationalisation des procédures et pour l'efficacité de la mise en application effective de la décentralisation. Les contributions volontaires attendues pourront-elles résoudre le problème ? Nous l'espérons vivement en tout cas.

Nous regrettons la réduction des activités de renforcement des capacités nationales d'analyse des sols, alors que ces activités doivent être un préalable à tout programme de développement agricole.

Compte tenu de l'importance que notre gouvernement accorde à l'élevage (vous vous souviendrez qu'à la cent sixième session du Conseil nous avons même proposé de l'ériger en grand programme) nous partageons l'appréciation du Comité du programme au paragraphe 255 indiquant que les crédits alloués aux ressources génétiques animales sont insuffisantes pour démarrer le centre mondial mis en place.

Au programme "cultures" nous apprécions l'accent mis sur les racines et tubercules et la promotion de la recherche sur le manioc en souhaitant toutefois que l'on commence à communiquer aux Etats intéressés les résultats obtenus afin que ces résultats puissent être utilisés par les petits agriculteurs pour leur sécurité alimentaire et l'amélioration de leur revenu.

Au programme nutrition nous faisons nôtre la recommandation du Comité prescrivant la recherche urgente de solutions pour remédier au problème de faible participation des pays en développement aux sessions du Comité du Codex Alimentarius.

Ma délégation se joint au Comité pour féliciter toute l'équipe du Centre d'Investissement pour le haut niveau des prestations qu'elle assure aux Etats Membres dans le cadre de préparation des projets d'investissement et de coopération avec de nombreuses institutions financières du système des Nations Unies.

Avant de conclure je voudrais partager la préoccupation légitime de plusieurs délégations, notamment les pays de l'Union européenne, le Japon, la Tunisie, le Cameroun, pour ne citer que ceux-là, devant la déclaration très précise de la délégation des Etats Unis, quant à la réduction drastique de leur contribution statutaire dans les organisations internationales du système des Nations Unies, dont la FAO, alors que nous nous préparons à célébrer le 50ème anniversaire de la fondation de la FAO et que les Etats-Unis sont parmi les Etats fondateurs de cette Organisation.

Nous sommes sûrs que la délégation ici présente a écouté, enregistré les appels lancés par les Etats, et peut-être que le voeu formulé par son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Cameroun, de voir un changement d'attitude de la part de ce grand pays d'ici la Conférence, sera exaucé.

Dato' Ahmad Zabri IBRAHIM (Malaysia): Thank you for giving me the floor. Please allow me to express our gratitude to FAO for preparing a comprehensive Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97. May I thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Officer-in-Charge of the Programme Budget and Evaluation for the clarity of the presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Firstly, my delegation wishes to express the opinion that we understand the dilemma of the Director-General that he is facing while preparing the budget in wanting to go forward with the new programmes and the restructuring and rationalizing in line with the decision of the Council at the FAO Conference. The Director-General has faced continued constraint of zero or no-grow budget for reasons we fully understand. In spite of this difficulty, which I shall call a challenge, the Director-General's untiring efforts in focusing on the subject of food production in support of food security in the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries should be commended. Since the global concern at the moment is that of food security especially in critical areas it is only appropriate that the FAO budget and activities be given high priority towards this programme. On the pressing issues of desert locusts and rinderpest control and other scourges, my delegation appreciates the undergoing activities of these programmes. These programmes therefore must be carried through to their desired success.

As regards the cooperation agreement between FAO and member countries on the use of experts for technical cooperation between developing countries, or TCDC, Malaysia has officially approved our participation. Malaysia would be happy to provide expertise in its field of competence. My delegation expresses the

conviction that the TCDC programme must be given a very high priority and this must be reflected in the FAO budgetary allocation. While the restructuring, decentralizing and improvement of communication infrastructures are proceeding, all be it rather cautiously due to the lack of funds, and possibly lack of consensus, my delegation endorses the Director-General's decision to proceed with the programmes of implementation. In this regard, we agree that to maximize the outcome in view of resource constraints, due consideration must be given to the recording of priorities. My delegation believes that as the funding position continues to improve, I am confident that the Director-General will be able to put all the other programmes in their correct perspectives. My delegation also strongly urges FAO to set clear targets and output for programmes and to try to increase its efficiency and cost effectiveness. In this regard, future reports on budgetary performance must include performance indicators and productivity increases by FAO.

On the subject referred to in this Summary Programme of Work and Budget on page 72, Major Programme 2.3 on Fisheries, especially Fisheries Resources and Agriculture, or the sub-programme on Inland Resources and Agriculture, Malaysia is emphasizing the developing of aquaculture to increase fish production. In this respect, we are taking an integrated approach to sustainable aquaculture development through integrated area management. We are very concerned about outbreaks of disease, and in this respect FAO could accelerate the implementation of technical assistance and technology transfer of aquaculture management policies and practices to member countries.

On Programme 2.3.3, page 73, Fisheries Exploitation and Utilization, and sub-programme 2.3.3.2 Fish Utilization and Marketing, in the area of post-harvest handling and fish quality assurance Malaysia is aware of the emphasis on the technique of Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) that is currently being promoted for global use. We urge FAO to provide programmes that will enable member countries to employ this technique in the implementation of their fish quality assurance programmes.

Finally, Mr Chairman, given a strong will and commitment, constraints and adversity can be transformed into challenges and opportunities, and a lean and healthy FAO can achieve its vision and mission. My delegation therefore supports the FAO Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97.

José ROBLES AGUILAR (México): Este año, Señor Presidente, nuestra Organización cumple medio siglo de existencia. A lo largo de este período la FAO ha realizado un invaluable papel en el campo del desarrollo de la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria de todos los Estados Miembros, en especial, de aquellos que por su situación requieren de una mayor asistencia. La FAO enfrenta hoy una etapa de redefiniciones caracterizada por un proceso de reestructuración y ajuste que demandaba no sólo las nuevas realidades internacionales, sino también las propias estructuras internas de la Organización.

Hoy, Señor Presidente, discutimos un documento que trasciende el bienio que cubre. En el fondo, nos pronunciaremos por una visión y una estrategia para esta Organización. En una época en la que los organismos multilaterales enfrentan graves dificultades financieras, reviste capital importancia el Proyecto del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1996-97. Mi delegación desea hacer algunas precisiones, tanto generales como particulares respecto al documento.

Mi país, Señor. Presidente, apoya un presupuesto para la Organización con base en el principio de crecimiento real cero en el que se contemple la absorción de gastos no discrecionales. En tal sentido encuentra si no justificable si comprensible, la metodología propuesta por el Director General en cuanto a los criterios para elaborar el presupuesto. Entendemos que éste se tiene que sustentar sobre bases sólidas que permitan un aceptable grado de previsibilidad en cuanto al flujo de las fuentes de financiamiento.

Apoyamos este planteamiento, Señor Presidente, porque creemos que la Organización debe seguir brindando apoyo a los países en desarrollo, particularmente a través de programas de asistencia de cooperación técnica. Consideramos que este tipo de programas debe revestir una de las principales prioridades para la Organización, ya que a través de éstos los países reciben de modo tangible y práctico los beneficios de asistencia de un organismo multilateral de la naturaleza de esta Organización.

En este contexto el problema de los atrasos juega, indiscutiblemente, un papel vital. Consideramos que cada país debe responder en la dimensión de sus capacidades, pero principalmente de sus responsabilidades, con los compromisos financieros asumidos con la Organización. Si bien, en muchos casos, las dificultades económicas

de algunos Estados Miembros impiden el pago oportuno de sus adeudos, en otros pueden mediar elementos de otra naturaleza.

En este contexto la responsabilidad del mayor contribuyente tiene una doble importancia, pues de no materializarse el pago de sus cuotas se podría señalar a otros países el camino del incumplimiento de sus propias obligaciones. Creemos que el pago de los adeudos es la mejor garantía de una óptima funcionalidad de la Organización y presupuesto de sustentación de un nuevo orden internacional.

La FAO sólo podrá homar su alto cometido con el compromiso y el apoyo pleno de todos sus Estados Miembros. El cumplimiento cabal del proceso de reforma está también condicionado en buena medida al apoyo que sus Estados Miembros le brinden, tanto en el plano político como económico.

En tal sentido mi delegación estima que debemos otorgar al Director General nuestra confianza para que someta a la próxima Conferencia de la Organización un proyecto revisado de presupuesto que, apegándose al principio de crecimiento cero, incida lo menos posible en las contribuciones de los Estados Miembros.

En relación a la estructura de la plantilla de puestos profesionales que plantea la propuesta del programa de labores, consideramos que ésta debería concentrarse en los niveles operativos congruentes con las estructuras de organizaciones de cometido similar a la FAO. Al respecto deseamos aclarar a la delegación francesa que la proporción de los rangos en el ejército mexicano son similares a los de todo ejército: pocos generales y mucha tropa.

Con relación al Capítulo 7 del Programa, queremos resaltar la importancia que mi país otorga al programa principal de agricultura, ya que consideramos que a través de éste se instrumentan proyectos que inciden en la disminución de la pobreza y apoya la seguridad alimentaria y de nutrición de los Estados Miembros. Por otro lado, deseamos manifestar nuestro respaldo para que se refuercen los programas de la Organización en la región latinoamericana y para que se analice la viabilidad financiera para que se establezca una oficina subregional en Centroamérica.

Señor Presidente, mi país ha sido siempre un firme defensor del multilateralismo como vía privilegiada de la cooperación y del consenso entre naciones. Consideramos que la mejor manera de honrar este compromiso en el 50° Aniversario de su fundación del máximo órgano agrícola alimentario, es el de otorgarle nuestro apoyo. Muchas gracias Señor Presidente.

Filibus BATURE (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation would like to support the statement made by

Her Excellency the Ambassador of Burkina Faso on behalf of the African group. Mr Chairman, my statement

will be brief and general in nature as our concerns have already been voiced by Burkina Faso.

The Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97 is the first Programme of Work and Budget to be submitted by the Director-General since he was elected to office by the 1993 Conference. This Council will recall that the Director-General requested that this august Council approved proposals put forward by him for important changes aimed at preserving and invigorating the unique mission for which this important United Nations agency was established 50 years ago. In doing so, the Conference approved the holding of a special 106th Session of the Council in June 1994 to consider the proposals the Director-General wanted to put forward. These proposals included, among others, a determined FAO response and adequate capacity to provide the necessary technical assistance and support for needy countries to alleviate the problems caused by expanding world population, pervasive rural poverty and malnutrition, environmental threats to the agricultural base, and imbalances in the world food and agriculture system. The Director-General specifically outlined FAO's increased responsibilities for the establishment of activities for the control of transboundary plant pests and animal diseases, and the provision of policy advice to Member Governments to assist in the establishment of a food security framework, especially in the low-income, food deficit countries. The Director-General also emphasized the global information and early warning system to monitor global supply and demand for all basic foods. This would provide analysis of the current food/nutrition situation and timely advice on impending food emergencies to governments and the international donor communities. Emphasis was also placed on sustainable agricultural, forestry and fishery development and also biotechnology. To achieve this objective, he found it necessary to embark on a restructuring exercise within the Organization. This was approved by Council in its 106th Session in 1994. The Director-General has kept the Council

informed of his actions through progress reports and informal regular meetings with the regional groups based in Rome. The success of these changes will depend on human, financial and logistical resources, with support from the membership of the Organization and the international community.

Document CL 108/3, Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97, was prepared and submitted to the Programme and Finance Committees for consideration with the aid of the relevant basic texts of the Organization. These two Committees are composed of representatives from all the FAO regions. Members have exhaustively studied the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and submitted their recommendations in document CL 108/14, which has been placed before this Council for endorsement.

Mr Chairman, the Nigerian Delegation wholeheartedly supports the Director-General's proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget as endorsed by the Finance and Programme Committees. The proposed budget, in our opinion, calls for a full agenda of action to confront the challenges facing the world food and agriculture situation. We therefore call upon all Member Nations, especially the largest contributors, to endeavour to pay their assessed contributions and arrears so as to strengthen the Organization's capability to serve its Member Nations, to make FAO's programmes more responsive to the challenges of the future and to enhance efficiency.

Inge NORDANG (Norway): When the FAO Conference in November 1993 approved the present Programme of Work and Budget, the Nordic countries could only with great reluctance join in the approval. The Nordic countries delivered an explanation of vote where the following, *inter alia*, was said: "We also wish to place on record that we are against establishing a deliberate gap between the Programme of Work and Budget and the assessed contributions on member countries. Such gap will have to be closed at a later stage, and we regret that the new Director-General will be faced with the difficulty of bridging this gap when he in two years' time is presenting his first Programme of Work and Budget to the 1995 Conference".

With this background, my delegation is not in a position to support the Programme of Work and Budget since it takes an unfinanced budget as its point of departure. Since the Budget approved in 1993 was under-funded by US\$38 million, the basis for calculations of cost increases will need to be based on the funded part of the Budget only. It should be borne in mind that changes in the lira/dollar ratio prior to the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for the current biennium had great implications on the level of assessments on the member countries. My delegation is pleased that the present Summary Programme of Work and Budget is based on sound budget practices without any allowance for parts of the budget to be covered by payments of arrears.

The preparation of Programme of Work and Budget should take the agreed priority activities as its point of departure. We can agree to the Director-General's proposal to base the Budget on a zero real growth in the Programme of Work and Budget. Cost increases need to be kept to a minimum and should, to the best extent possible, be absorbed in the Budget. This would allow for a lower increase in the assessed contribution, the 11.7 percent, which we consider to be too high.

I turn now to the priorities in the Programme of Work. Norway and the other Nordic countries gave their full support to the Director-General's proposal to reshape the Organization and to tighten the priority setting at the extraordinary Council meeting one year ago. A stricter priority setting implies giving lower priority to certain fields. We are ready to support a further move along the lines drawn up by the Council last year. Food security in low-income low-deficit countries and the fight against transboundary pests and diseases have been established as top priority areas for the Organization. Some other areas were also pointed out as important priorities, especially those related to normative aspects and UNCED follow-up within the general framework of FAO as a centre of excellence for agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the United Nations system. We are ready to accept a reduced priority to sectors not covered by those general priorities. The present Programme of Work is not easily comparable with the previous ones but our general feeling is that the proposal could have gone further along the lines approved by the last Council session.

We would, however, have liked to see a medium-term plan based on the Council's full approval of the new orientations as a basis for the Programme of Work and Budget discussions. Such a long-term vision could also have provided the basis for the Quebec Declaration and served as a guideline for the Plan of Action to be adopted during the World Food Summit. We realize that, due to the restructuring exercise, time did not allow

for preparing the Medium-term Plan for this Council session but we are looking forward to a discussion on the longer-term priorities at the next Council session and at the Conference itself. We are especially keen to see how the reinvigorating of the Organization is expected to reduce administrative costs in the coming years.

Mr Chairman, it is a regrettable fact that this Organization for several years has been facing a difficult financial situation. With the present budgetary atmosphere in member countries there does not seem to be any easy solution. For several consecutive periods the Organization has approved a budget that some member countries have not felt obliged to abide by. A situation where the Organization has an approved Programme of Work but is unable to implement parts of it is not a healthy one. It is therefore of great importance to return to a situation where the Budget is approved with full consensus and where all member countries take their responsibility and pay their contribution in full and on time.

I listened to the very grave statement presented by the delegate of the United States this morning. The implications of the statement might, unfortunately, have serious effects on the entire Organization. If the worst scenario comes about, we are all facing a dramatic situation and it would be most regrettable if large actors were not ready to stand by agreed obligations. It cannot be expected that anyone else is willing or able to take over the responsibility. The imperative to reach a consensus on the Budget will call for a spirit of compromise from all parts. The Secretariat will have a lot of work to do to craft a basis for a broad consensus.

This statement has been prepared in consultation with the other Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden.

Juraj SOLCANY (Slovakia): Mr Chairman, I would like to express the opinion of my delegation on this extremely important and decisive document concerning the further development of FAO and its relationship with Member Nations.

I would like to express deep gratitude to the authors and all supporters for the preparation of this serious and conceptual document. My delegation appreciates very much the way the Programme and Finance Committees, with great responsibility, negotiated and modified the submitted document on behalf of Member Nations.

Generally my delegation regards the Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming biennium as a progressive one which tries to respond to the needs of Member Nations within the FAO's mandate. It is clear that the programme's intentions have been prepared on the basis of typical conditions for the expected Budget perspective. In spite of this, within a traditional programme structure, the proposals have appeared to reflect the present developmental trends in food and agriculture.

In the light of the future FAO activities it should be remembered that the major challenge for countries in transition will be to continue the programme of structural reforms while minimizing the social costs of transition and the number of people excluded from its benefits. From the point of view of FAO it should be noted that the present food sectors in the sub-region are facing two key difficulties: high real interest rate associated with a high level of indebtedness and a static or deteriorating domestic market reflecting declining income.

Agricultural economies in transition represent the most critical sector but with faster developmental trends. For this reason perceived problems must be solved very urgently. We believe that appropriate space will be created for our countries within Chapter II. Technical and economic problems for the solution of the above mentioned issues are needed. It should be recalled that problems of depressed rural areas along with a high level of unemployment are of major concern to the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the research community in Slovakia.

Agriculture is the main source of employment in the rural areas. Rural development is of such importance that we are expecting, through the TCP, it will become one of the highest priorities in the sub-region.

A fundamental goal for Slovak foreign policy is to join the European Union. We are convinced that FAO can play a most important role in this process. The fact that seven other countries from our sub-region have expressed their interest should lead, within the Organization, to the development of intensive consultative cooperation elaborated upon in the document before us.

From our point of view Major Programme 2.1 is particularly important on the Agricultural Production and Supporting Systems, Programmes and Projects Supporting Food, Coordinated Development of a Food and Agricultural Policy, including exchange of experiences at international level of experts in agricultural policy analyses. The programme supporting the implementation of the conclusions of the GATT Uruguay Round are also important for the Slovak Republic and for the other Central and Eastern European countries.

We are placing increasing importance on Sub-programme 2.12.5, the Development of Grassland Management, especially from the point of view of maintaining the environment and also from the influence on agricultural production.

In order to support the development of the Slovak Republic, my delegation would welcome the possibility of continuing in the FAO investment programmes and projects cooperation leading to the support of agricultural, food and forestry modernization. The implementation of new agreements, particularly TCCT, is for the common programme projects and revitalization cooperation among the experts of the Central and Eastern European countries.

The proposed budget and prepared financial measures are very delicate and sensitive issues. It should be remembered that it is not only FAO who is facing such problems. Our colleagues in the other international organizations are facing the same problems. This is a very complicated issue for all United Nations bodies. We must be aware of our responsibility towards further developments. In particular, in this Organization we have to try to seek the solution which will meet Member Nations' interests and respect FAO's hopes as well.

Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique): Cette délégation souhaiterait bien sûr compléter la déclaration de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres, qui a été faite ce matin. Je me limiterai à ce qui est essentiel pour nous parce que le débat est long et il y a beaucoup d'orateurs. Je voudrais d'abord dire que j'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'intervention du délégué du Brésil, mon voisin, ce qui n'est sans doute pas un hasard, puisque je souscris totalement à ce qu'il a dit sur le rôle que la FAO devrait jouer et également au sujet des obligations des Etats Membres vis-à-vis de l'Organisation. Nous avons aussi écouté le délégué de la Norvège et je souscris totalement à ce qu'il a dit au sujet des arriérés. En effet, les 38 millions de dollars inclus, à tort peut-être, dans le budget du biennium précédent, sont dus à l'ensemble des membres, comme d'ailleurs la totalité des arriérés.

Nous demander de financer ces arriérés est une question d'équité; et je dirai que c'est aussi une question de viabilité du procédé dans l'hypothèse où, chaque année, les difficultés de financement feront surgir de nouveaux arriérés. Hier, on nous a déjà annoncé qu'il y avait un shortfall à attendre de 10 à 20 pour cent de l'un des contributeurs les plus importants - pour ne pas dire le plus important - de l'Organisation, ce qui entretient et accentue la contradiction entre ce que l'on demande à l'Organisation et les moyens que l'on met à sa disposition.

La Belgique défend une politique de stabilité des ressources, non pas seulement pour la FAO mais pour toutes les organisations des Nations Unies. Stabilité des ressources, en période d'austérité financière, implique que l'on s'en tienne à l'essentiel; cela veut aussi dire que l'on consolide la position de l'Organisation dans les missions où son action est la plus performante. A notre avis, il existe une masse critique au-dessous de laquelle il ne faut pas tomber si l'on veut mener à bon terme les réformes actuelles et préserver à l'Organisation un impact effectif. A défaut, l'output de l'Organisation, la raison d'être qui justifie son existence au regard de son mandat, risque de se contracter, comme c'est d'ailleurs le cas depuis un certain nombre d'années, au détriment de tous ses Membres.

Les difficultés de paiement qu'un Etat Membre important nous a signalées ce matin, et même déjà hier, traduisent des doutes qui ont pu surgir au niveau politique quant à la pertinence de l'action du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement ou qui témoignent d'un repli sur des problèmes strictement nationaux, à part les raisons avouées ce matin. On ne voit pas sur quelle base juridique d'éventuelles décisions

unilatérales de réduction des contributions peuvent être justifiées. Accepter une telle action unilatérale constituerait un précédent très grave qui aurait des conséquences pour la capacité de négociation et de décision en matière budgétaire de tout le système des Nations Unies à l'avenir. Il y aurait, à notre sens, une grande irresponsabilité si, pour des raisons que nous espérons temporaires, le système des Nations Unies et la FAO en particulier se voyaient déstabilisés par un manque de ressources juste au moment où les défis dépassent de loin la capacité d'action nationale et exigent une coopération multilatérale sans faille.

Toutefois, nous croyons aussi que l'Organisation elle-même doit reconnaître les signaux qui lui sont donnés de l'extérieur. Dans ce contexte, nous ne pensons pas que la base de l'exercice biennal 1994-95 soit la meilleure proposition que l'on puisse faire aux Etats Membres. Nous serions tentés de suggérer que le coût effectif du Programme réalisé au cours de l'exercice biennal passé serait peut-être la meilleure base ou la meilleure référence pour le budget à venir, en tenant compte, bien sûr, des activités non réalisées ou différées par manque de moyens.

Comme d'autres avant nous, nous défendons le respect de la croissance réelle nulle avec absorption maximale des coûts non discrétionnaires; et j'ai noté avec grande attention ce qu'a dit, ce matin, la déléguée du Burkina Faso à ce sujet. Mais, même dans cette hypothèse d'une absorption maximale des coûts non discrétionnaires, il faudra réaliser des économies. Personne ne peut prétendre de réaliser en entier un programme de travail et budget qui lui correspond si des dispositions appropriées ne couvrent pas la hausse prévisible des coûts. Dès lors, nous insistons pour que, préalablement au débat sur la sélection des activités prioritaires, on accorde la priorité à la recherche de gains en efficacité, à la rationalisation des procédures de décision - Monsieur le Président, vous en conviendrez, nos réunions sont trop longues et trop nombreuses - et à la révision des méthodes de gestion.

Certaines économies ont déjà été suggérées par des délégations ce matin et au cours de la journée. Je voudrais me distancer de certaines de ces suggestions, entre autres de celle selon laquelle la FAO ne devrait s'engager dans des activités d'assistance technique qu'à condition que son avantage comparatif soit prouvé par rapport à des actions bilatérales. Cette assertion présente un problème à ma délégation à cause de la vocation multilatérale de la FAO que nous considérons comme importante en tant que facteur correcteur vis-à-vis des actions bilatérales parce que, en effet, s'il y a des pays qui, pour des raisons historiques, stratégiques ou autres, bénéficient d'un appui ou d'une assistance technique bilatérale, nombreux sont les pays qui ne bénéficieraient d'aucune assistance s'il n'y avait pas l'assistance multilatérale.

On a aussi parlé des coûts de gestion des projets financés par des fonds fiduciaires et on nous dit qu'il y a un subside direct du Programme ordinaire à ces projets. Sincèrement, nous pensons qu'il est difficile de quantifier avec grande précision ce qui est coût et bénéfice dans cet exercice. Comment peut-on évaluer, par exemple, l'expérience de terrain que ces programmes permettent d'acquérir à l'Organisation, à ses membres et à son personnel? C'est un élément dont on ne tient pas compte dans un calcul comptable des coûts, mais qui est important; il constitue le cordon ombilical entre ce qui est l'expertise théorique et ce qui est l'expertise technique.

Pour le reste, nous pouvons parfaitement souscrire à plusieurs des suggestions qui ont été faites au sujet des économies et nous encourageons le Secrétariat à poursuivre le travail très difficile qui a été entamé mais qu'il devra nécessairement continuer.

Gaylord Themba HLATSHWAYO (Zimbabwe): Thank you, Mr Chairman, I shall be very brief since most of the issues we wanted to bring up here have already been exhausted.

Mr Chairman, my delegation takes the floor today to express its full support for the statement made earlier by the distinguished representative of Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Group, and beyond that for the programme in budget proposals as presented by the Director-General.

Mr Chairman, our Director-General took office at a difficult time for our Organization. Even without the various budgetary problems he inherited and the restructuring and decentralization exercise we have wielded upon him, his task in preserving and enhancing the unique mission of the FAO into today's industrial environment would have been a tough one, but those additional individual tasks which we have entrusted to him have made his assignment an even more difficult one.

Consistent with the recommendation of the Programme and the Budget Committees, a non-growth budget has been proposed. Given the levels of malnutrition which continue to afflict so many parts of our planet, given the prospect of an additional three billion mouths to feed within a generation from now, we understand the Director-General when, in his introduction to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1996/97, he says that the zero-growth decision was not an easy one to reach.

My delegation supports the proposal for a real zero-growth budget, taking into account the views expressed by the Finance and Programme Committees during its preparation. This will naturally imply an increase in assessments of 11.7 percent on Member Nations for the 1996-97 biennium, leading to a further deterioration in the already difficult arrears situation especially for the developing countries but, understandably, a situation we will all agree is unavoidable.

Mr Chairman, this is the proposal that has been made; and clearly, if we want our Organization to be able to function effectively and to be able to continue to address well established subsequent priorities, then under this accounting a zero-growth budget is the absolute minimum we must aim for. And yet there appears to be some unhappiness with this very reasonable and pragmatic approach. Of course, we fully understand and share the concerns expressed about outstanding arrears and the negative impact - this is upon our overall position. But cycle field accounting in terms of the budget and/or resource sanctions are unhelpful and will probably in the end only serve to further weaken our Organization, and this at a time when all our efforts should be aimed at strengthening it in view of revitalizing it.

My delegation, whilst sympathizing with some of the views expressed by some Member Nations on the proposal to reduce the budget level, nevertheless urges them to reconsider this approach as it would definitely have severe adverse effects on the on-going and future agricultural programmes, particularly in the African region.

The restructuring exercise is already underway. The Director-General is actively and personally addressing the question of arrears and has broken new ground in the quest for new sources of funding. Preparations for the Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations and for the World Food Summit with all the prospects that both events hold for increasing interest in support of the FAO, are also underway. It is against this active and optimistic background and on the basis of a solid belief in the leadership of our Organization and in his vision for the future for the FAO that we again express our full support for the programme and budget as brought before us by the Director-General. Thank you.

Sra. Ileana Maritza LOPEZ TURCIOS (Honduras): Como ya han expresado otras delegaciones, agradecemos la información suministrada por la Secretaría, así como las explicaciones al tema que nos ocupa.

Nuestros países en desarrollo, como se sabe, hacen verdaderos esfuerzos para cumplir con puntualidad las obligaciones financieras para con la Organización. No está de más señalar que los programas de ajuste macroeconómico por una parte, y el pago de nuestra deuda externa, por otra, restringen los programas de desarrollo económico y social. Sin embargo, comprendemos la necesidad de seguir esforzándonos a fin de lograr que la Organización siga creciendo y fortaleciéndose, principalmente en los países en desarrollo.

En consideración a lo anterior, hemos venido apoyando a la FAO en su concepto de universalidad, a su actual Director y a las medidas encaminadas a su reestructuración y actualización.

Deseo ser lo más breve posible, en vista de que este tema ya ha sido expuesto con suficiente claridad y en forma extensiva por los representantes que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, específicamente las delegaciones de América Latina y el Caribe. Así, me limitaré a reiterar el interés de la subregión del istmo centroamericano expuesto en la Cumbre de El Salvador, relacionada con la creación de una Oficina Subregional de la FAO para nuestra área geográfica.

En lo que respecta a lo manifestado con relación a la posibilidad de vincular aun más las actividades con el Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura, IICA, y nuestra Organización, aun cuando estamos a favor de toda iniciativa que busque una mayor intensificación a favor de la agricultura y la investigación agrícola para un desarrollo sostenible, consideramos que se trata de organizaciones con

mandatos diferentes, y que una de ellas no cubre en su totalidad las actividades de la otra, por lo que somos de la opinión de que es necesario que cada una de ellas, aun cooperando entre sí, mantenga su propia identidad.

En resumen, Sr. Presidente, deseamos que nuestra Organización, la FAO, tenga cada vez una mayor presencia, avivada con la antorcha en los ideales que le dieron nacimiento hace 50 años.

Nahi SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, having carefully studied the documents relating to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, my delegation would like to pay tribute to the important efforts made by both the Programme and Finance Committees and also the **efforts** made by the Secretariat. We believe that the workload was heavy and that the work itself was complicated. Therefore, we support the distribution of the different programmes within the budget.

Mr Chairman, may I submit very briefly some observations concerning this issue. As for the budget, we support what has been stated by the representative of Egypt when he referred to this issue on behalf of the Group of 77. We should like to say that the budget, as contained in the documents before us submitted by the Finance and Programme Committees, is indeed the very minimum for the activities which should be implemented by FAO in order to put a halt to the deterioration in the nutritional levels throughout the world. We think that the restructuring operation would entail further savings. We think that further resources should be mobilized in order to implement these important activities. We think that Member Nations represented in this Organization should share in shouldering this burden. This is in full compliance with the obligations of the various Member Nations towards FAO.

As for the programmes per se, we endorse the priority setting contained in these documents. The Council in the 106th Session endorsed these priorities. We should like to state here that this prioritization is accurate for all countries in the world.

However, priorities might differ from one region to another. We might even see that a given programme has the highest priority in one single region and that the same programme does not have this same priority in another region. We hope that the Organization will take account of the priorities of the various regions when setting priorities in the future.

While appreciating the value of the nutrition programmes, the EMPRES programme and the Early Warning System, and while recalling the importance of all other programmes to which FAO has attached importance, namely the programmes relating to semi-arid countries, we believe that the reafforestation efforts are very important, especially in those countries where deforestation took place in such a way that agriculture was affected and was further exacerbated by low rainfall. We believe that efforts should be made to promote reafforestation in these countries, which would have a positive impact on the agriculture sector in the future.

Furthermore, we think that Plant Genetic Resources are very important in arid and semi-arid regions. Some plant and animal genetic resources are threatened and we believe that the Organization should attach importance to this aspect, bearing in mind the vital importance of animal and plant genetic resources. We in Syria collect plant and animal genetic resources, despite our limited resources. We believe that such an activity should be undertaken in a collective manner with the help of the relevant organizations and primarily with FAO.

Furthermore, we attach great importance to the Technical Cooperation Programme. We refer to paragraph 100 of document CL 108/3 and the paragraphs relating to the assistance to be given to countries in order to promote their procurement. This has an input to the implementation of the various projects. We believe that this would promote further achievements within the allocated resources. We believe that this would also have a bearing on the global cost of the programmes.

Finally, my country wishes every success to FAO. This Organization has a noble and lofty mandate, and we appreciate the efforts of the management of the Organization with the assistance of the Director-General, since he has spared no effort in order to promote the activities of this Organization.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we endorse the proposed budget for the biennium 1996-97 and we hope that the Organization will not celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a fear that it would not be capable of shouldering its responsibilities.

Ms Susan MILLS (Canada): We have listened with great interest to the various statements made today and I would like to begin my intervention by offering some comments which place our position in context. Canada's point of departure as we embark on these programming exercises is based on our unremitting commitment to the multilateral system, of which FAO is an integral and important part, and on the observations of all the international obligations inherent in such a commitment. The FAO, like all national and multilateral entities, is in the highly competitive market for funds from a very limited public purse. This is true in all areas of the globe. Its competitors are not only the multiplicity of development, emergency, humanitarian and aid institutions but the increasing and most urgent calls for enhanced domestic programmes. Success in this contest for finite resources demands effective and efficient targeting and management of resources and activities and a clear demonstration of utilities, value added and sustainable results.

Current fiscal realities and the never-ending proliferation of new national and global issues and needs are joined to existing, and unresolved problems to dictate invariably hard choices at both national and international levels. For several years many governments have not increased their spending even in line with cost increases beyond their control and in response to chronic and problematic fiscal imbalances which threaten economic growth and viability. Real cumulative programme cuts have become the order of the day for most governments and, most notably from our point of view, that of Canada.

An illustration of this is the budget passed by my Government in March this year which encompassed a comprehensive attack on budget deficit reduction calling for cutbacks in real terms over the next three years of 15 percent for the Department of Foreign Affairs, 20 percent for the Department of Agriculture and 21 percent in the international assistance envelope. This trend is not expected to be reversed in the foreseeable future. In this year's budget, assessed contributions to multilateral agencies have been sheltered, with the allocation provided remaining unchanged in absolute terms relative to the level of previous years. We must engage a Programme of Work and Budget exercise which realistically addresses the capacity of the membership to pay within a sober appreciation of the limits as defined by the fiscal environment that I have just been describing. We believe this to be the only feasible approach if we are to achieve a consensus on the programme directions that our Organization is to embark upon in the coming biennium. In Canada's view, this makes it impossible for us to agree to the increase over the previous biennium which is proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Similarly, we cannot agree to engage in a budgetary exercise that inflates nominal budget levels to compensate for the anticipated delinquencies of others. Thus, we need to rethink the proposed budget before us in order to arrive at a level that reflects actual capacity to pay and avoids any inducement to further arrears by virtue of its departure from this principle. In our judgement - and our preference is due to budgetary exigencies - we would situate this level at that represented by the current level of assessed contributions. We believe that this objective can be achieved without sacrifice to the essential programmes that the membership expects our Organization to deliver in the operationalization of its critically important mandate.

As has been stated by others, we too believe that there are significant efficiency gains to be realized within our Organization such as to preclude programme reduction. This is not to suggest that shifts in programme priorities, including the termination of programmes and activities that have fulfilled their mandates or have proved to be ineffective, should not take place. Indeed this must be a major objective of any exercise aimed at achieving a budget that is publicly defensible on the basis of a demonstrably effective performance in finding solutions to the global problems that we have asked the FAO to address.

Among the areas where significant potential savings would appear to reside we would single out the following. Deliberation of resources pursuant to the significant decline in Field Programme implementation, a factor recognized by the recent Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. Efficiencies in the way FAO does what it does, not only in terms of updating of skilled profiles and applied technologies but perhaps, and most importantly, in terms of the streamlining of administrative and managerial structures, procedures and practices focused on value-added within each level and empowerment borne of devolution of decision-making. All of this within a clearly defined set of results oriented accountabilities.

We would note that the Programme Evaluation Report currently before us provides an object lesson in this regard in Chapter 4. Staffing levels which since the 1980-81 biennium have been characterized by a chronic vacancy rate among Professional staff averaging more than 17 percent and by a ratio of General Service to Professional staff that seems to be unbalanced; recruitment procedures and practices which in recent years have required months in order to yield staffing decisions; travel and general administration costs; and, finally, as mentioned by others, publications and meetings. This list is obviously not comprehensive and on this general point we would endorse the comments of several other delegations and we also suggest seeking external management advice.

In concluding, I would also stress our view that as we join this programme on budget exercise we must remain very mindful of the reality that the normative work of our Organization constitutes the irreducible core of FAO's raise on debt and that it is the guarantor of the Organization's continued viability and relevance because it addresses the interest of all the membership. This core requires current nurturing, renewal and strengthening because it guarantees the qualitative nature of the technical work that earns for the FAO the justifiable label of "centre of excellence"; thus, the FAO must protect its normative vocation if it is to play effectively its mandated role in world agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

It follows that vigilance and careful management will be required to ensure that we avoid risk to this core as we consider programme responses to the budgetary limitations which are presently facing our Organization. For our part we would not support any indiscriminate, across-the-board restraint proposals which would compromise the effectiveness of high priority programmes and inevitably penalize the smallest, such as forestry and fisheries, that have but a minimum margin of manoeuvre relative to other far larger programmes. In effect, we would insist on a rational and vigorous priority-setting exercise that would lay bear objectives expected results and measurable indicators of output as guidelines against which to render informed judgements and to protect our highest priorities.

As well, we would recall that continuing a very substantial subsidy from the Regular Programme to the Field Programme to the extent that this subsidy acts to deny to the Regular Programme the resources necessary to the effect of an efficient discharge of its core activities. It is imperative that we act to correct such an obvious distortion. Accordingly, we also would endorse the UK proposal for review of this issue which echoes a similar recommendation by the Programme Committee. Mr Chairman, we also have a number of comments respecting programme priorities that address the proposals contained in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

In the first place, there are some key details missing from this document **that** are essential to our analysis and approval. A table giving a comparison between the allocations under the current biennium and those proposed for the next biennium is essential. The reorganization of FAO notwithstanding these figures are necessary and could be made available to facilitate understanding. As indicated in the report to COAG, the availability of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget (SPWB) to the Technical Committees is essential to our deliberations and I would expect that this practice will be reinstated at the next meeting in 1997. As the programme and sub-programme information from the SPWB was missing from our Technical Committee meetings, this is the first substantive discussion of many of the programmes.

On the question of Budget Allocations to Forestry, Canada is still disappointed about the lack of growth in this programme. It would appear that the budget for forestry has declined from US\$32 million in the outline budget to US\$30.8 in the SPWB. I would like to address the programmes in agriculture, including new programmes 2.5, 3.1 and 3.2.

Major programme 2.2 is the highest priority in the agricultural field encompassing nutrition, food and agricultural information, agriculture development and policy.

On nutrition, we are looking forward to receiving the report of the follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition at the 28th FAO Conference. The Canadian Plan of Action is at the consultation phase with industry, provincial governments and non-government organizations and should be signed by the Ministers of Health and Agriculture in the next few months.

The work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is of high priority and the new work towards harmonizing food standards in connection with the World Trade Organization is of great importance as is the programme stressing food safety and quality. Work in progress on the International Plant Protection Convention should harmonize import standards which will be useful for all countries. FAO and the World Health Organization should continue efforts to streamline Codex procedures to enable the development of science-based standards within a time-frame which ensures relevance to the International Trading Community.

Secondly, the approach being proposed in seeking to improve the nutritional status at the household and community levels through an empowerment approach is very sound. Consideration should also be given to putting special emphasis on women to strengthen their roles as mothers, homemakers and income earners to further the nurturing of children.

Food and agriculture information is of key importance to the trade and environmental work that is performed by FAO and we strongly support its inclusion. We are pleased with the new information being made available on Internet on the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) and Canada has benefitted from a user consultation. We request that FAO move even faster towards the electronic production and disseminations of information in order to provide more timely output and save money. Electronic transmission of the documents for these meetings could also be accomplished faster and cheaper.

An item that seems to have been dropped from the statistical development area is the sources and destinations database on agricultural trade. This database is very useful for examining trade patterns for both analysts and exporters alike. If FAO is not able to undertake the work itself, will it facilitate the work perhaps with experts from other countries?

In the Commodity Situation and Outlook Section (2.2.2.4), we support FAO's programmes to provide good quality commodity market data and analysis. In particular, we value the medium-term commodity forecasts which are of use to importers and exporters. The Global Information and Early Warning Systems are a key to warning of impending food shortages and famines and we support its continuation. The commodities whose stocks are being counted should be expanded from grains to include pulses and animals.

In the section on Agriculture and Economic Development Analysis Section (2.2.3.2/3), we support the production of the State of Food and Agriculture and endorse its new directions towards a more analytical, policy-oriented and future-looking document. The list of other projects outlined is ambitious and should be selected on the basis of their usefulness to potential recipients and viability within the resource limits outlined in the document.

In the section 2.2.4 on Food and Agricultural Policy, we support the updating of agriculture towards 2010, medium-term commodity forecasts, the studies on protectionism, preparing for the next round of negotiations on agriculture. We support examining links to environmental issues but should also recognize the excellent work already undertaken by the Organization for economic cooperation and development.

We support the work in section 2.2.4.3 on World Food Security Analysis but would like to know the focus. Although the food security concept is broad and deserves wide treatment, there does not seem to be any central focus in the Organization as aspects of the work appear in programmes, 2.2.4.3, 2.2.4.1, 2.5.6, 3.1 and 3.2.

Depending on which aspect you address, the viewpoints expressed differ markedly. Has the methodology for making a national food security strategy been finalized and what are the results of the work undertaken so far? In short, the value of the work seems to be undermined by a lack of a central focus within the Organization.

The work on conservation and management of plant genetic resources is also of highest priority. The work of the Commission itself, the revision of the undertaking and preparations for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources are all key tasks and milestones towards international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for environmental and food security purposes.

Similarly, the Domestic Animal Genetic Diversity Programme (programme 2.1.3.5) the key to the global system for the preservation and sustainable use of these resources in line with recommendations of Agenda 21. We support the observations on the programme contained in the Committee on Agriculture Report which will reorient the programme to make less use of external resources and more use of internal resources.

In the area of animal genetics, Canada continues to support the development and validation of a global databank that can be used as a basis for decisions on the world watch list. Canada concurs that the global databank will need continual updating as changes occur and we will collaborate in this project by making available documented data on Canadian animal genetic resources. Information on conserved resources, both *in situ* and cryopreserved, is essential and an objective means, through expert consultation, of ensuring genetic diversity of domestic species.

With regard to the emphasis of FAO on the utilization of livestock, our position is that the mandate of the programme should emphasize conservation rather than a breeding programme for the optimization of production. Our view is that the appropriate role of FAO is in the area of maintaining livestock genetic diversity through a validated global databank and assessment of endangerment of specific populations. Techniques such as embryo transfer should be used in programmes of conservation of endangered populations rather than in maximizing animal production through introduction of popular breeds. Conservation of genetic resources is a clear and pressing need while breeding programmes to optimize production can lead to a major drain of limited resources from conservation efforts and may result in a negative influence on genetic diversity. Obviously, the purpose of conservation is to ensure that genetic resources are available to enable all countries to attain their development goals.

Canada supports the use of biotechnology to measure the genetic distance between animal populations which will assist the consultative board in arriving at decisions on endangered populations. Progress is being made in genome mapping and should be encouraged.

In major programme 2.5, we welcome a separate identity for the Sustainable Development Programme as befits this new priority within the FAO. In programme 2.5.5, Coordination and Promotion of Sustainable Development, we support the work done in support of the Commission of Sustainable Development. Canada is pleased with the seriousness with which FAO takes integrating sustainable development concerns into its work programme. It is unclear however what proportion of this programme has been allocated to forestry.

In follow-up to UNCED, there are a broad range of issues, complex interdependencies, a large number of factors and limited resources. It is important that all organizations, including the FAO, continue to look for priority areas where they have the greatest value-added. Canada supports the FAO's programme to develop methods and tools for environmental assessment and sustainability analysis, including indicators of sustainability. Canada will continue to work cooperatively with other countries and international agencies to develop agri-environmental indicators.

The work of the Technical Departments are also reflected in Chapter 3 - Development Services to Member Nations. Whereas this policy work in programmes 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 are among the most important tasks that FAO can do for Members, the work itself seems relatively unfocused. We are in definite need of output indicators in this area in terms of the number of consultancies, the expected output, etc. Whereas the policy work could be instrumental in building capacity, it could also be a substitute for the effort of the recipient country itself. In the Latin American region, we would hope that there will be an equitable division of labour with IICA. Could we have an indication of what will be the priority areas for working together?

In the forestry area, Canada continues to be disappointed with the budget allocation which does not reflect the importance of forestry in the FAO mandate and forestry's global importance. The FAO needs to put in place a prioritized focused work plan with specific timeframes, resources and outputs. Canadian priorities for the FAO as set out by Minister McLellan at the FAO Forest Ministers Meeting in March 1995, included the importance Canada attaches to the development of and consensus on a global framework for criteria and indicators for sustainable forestry management, the important role for the FAO in assisting in the implementation of national forest action plans, the need to continue working to improve upon global information on the state of forests and community forestry.

The highest priority for the FAO Forestry Programme over the next two years should be providing support to the recently-established UNCSD Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.

Pedro Alfonso MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile): Quisiéramos iniciar nuestros comentarios, señor Presidente, señalando que estamos de acuerdo en que la primera preocupación de este Consejo es garantizar que la FAO y su nueva estructura pueda funcionar con la máxima eficiencia y hacerse cargo de las prioridades básicas que se han acordado. Las necesidades y desafíos que plantea el actual estado de la agricultura y la alimentación a nivel mundial, así lo exigen.

En este contexto, Sr. Presidente, es preocupante el estancamiento de la asistencia oficial para el desarrollo y la disminución en cifras reales de los recursos extrapresupuestarios canalizados a través de la FAO y los efectos que tienen para la Organización.

Estamos igualmente preocupados por el contexto financiero en que se apoya la formulación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, particularmente las cuotas atrasadas y el déficit acumulado y por las tendencias que se observan en relación a los mismos, que se traducen en un aumento constante de los saldos pendientes que al 31 de diciembre de 1994 ascendían a 152 millones de dólares.

Nuestra delegación, Sr. Presidente, estima que el contexto financiero descrito en el resumen del PLP debería ser materia de amplia discusión entre los Estados Miembros en un espíritu de buscar en definitiva, una solución a este problema que se arrastra en forma estructural y que a la larga puedan ser ilusionarías las medidas y el proceso de reestructuración y las prioridades que este Consejo ha aprobado.

De la misma forma se pueden plantear serias dudas respecto de la viabilidad del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1995-96, a la luz de las intervenciones que hemos escuchado en la mañana de hoy.

Este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto se basa en un crecimiento real cero con respecto al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto aprobado para 1994-95, lo cual significa un aumento de las cuotas asignadas del 11,7 por ciento con respecto a este bienio.

Respecto de este último punto pensamos, que si bien se puede explicar y justificar por la medida de no incluir los pagos de las cuotas atrasadas en la estimación presupuestaria y por los aumentos que derivan de los factores de bialización e inflación, así como la incidencia del coeficiente medio de descuentos por vacantes, que en esta oportunidad se estima en un 3,15 por ciento y las repercusiones del **tipo** de cambio, pensamos, repito, que al igual que lo señalado por la distinguida Delegación del Brasil es una materia que puede ser considerada con más atención de manera de reducir el peso, que en última instancia, esto podría representar para los Estados Miembros.

Sin embargo, señor Presidente, creemos que el tratamiento del problema presupuestario y del Programa, debe partir de premisas comunes para todos. Al respecto quisiéramos señalar, en primer lugar, que creemos que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, es en primera instancia responsabilidad primaria de los Estados Miembros, no quiero decir que sea ajeno a esto la Secretaría, pero lo cierto es que han sido los Estados Miembros de la FAO, en su Consejo y Conferencia General, los que han aprobado el principio de crecimiento real cero, el Programa de reestructuración, la descentralización, el carácter normativo y operativo de la FAO, las prioridades programáticas, etc. Ha sido el Consejo último de la FAO el que aprobó las propuestas del Director General para reestructurar la FAO y respaldó los programas especiales dentro del marco presupuestario existente y le señaló a la Secretaría criterios y recomendaciones para ejecutarlos. En tal sentido creo que corresponde ahora reconocer que el Director General ha procedido de acuerdo con el mandato recibido, y que el presupuesto y el programa que nos somete a nuestra consideración, responde a estas directrices.

Quiero recordar que en su oportunidad nuestro grupo latinoamericano estudió con atención estas propuestas, y formuló comentarios específicos sobre las mismas, reflejando un amplio consenso de respaldo a las propuestas del Director General acompañadas de sugerencias concretas.

La segunda consideración que queremos formular, señor Presidente, se refiere al marco conceptual y a la base de acuerdo político existente respecto del Programa y del futuro de la FAO como organismo privilegiado de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Desde el punto de vista conceptual nos permitimos reafirmar, una vez más, nuestro compromiso con los objetivos de la FAO, su papel importantísimo en el alivio del hambre y la pobreza y en el valioso apoyo que presta a los países, tanto a través de sus actividades normativas, como operativas.

El resumen del Programa, recoge, a nuestro entender, de manera adecuada estos propósitos. Naturalmente admite perfecciones y tendríamos algunas propuestas específicas al respecto. Así, por ejemplo, y en términos generales, nos interesa un mayor fortalecimiento de los Programas de Montes, de Pesca, de Asistencia técnica en materia de políticas, así como la asistencia técnica orientada a los aspectos ambientales, a la producción, al mejoramiento de la calidad y al comercio internacional. Igualmente nos interesa que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica mantenga su nivel promedio de los últimos bienios, haciendo un mayor uso de los mecanismos de cooperación entre países en desarrollo y de los recursos nacionales. En este aspecto quisiéramos un mayor apoyo a los proyectos PSP en el campo de pesca, comercio y montes.

Igualmente nos interesa que se mantengan las publicaciones en español, y que se utilicen los métodos modernos de comunicación y de transmisión para poner a disposición de los países en forma oportuna y a bajo costo, la red de información y de datos que mantiene la FAO.

En cuanto a la descentralización, nos permitimos sugerir un estudio detallado respecto a las posibilidades de establecer una oficina subregional para la subregión del Istmo Centroamericano. Es el área que concentra la atención de los principales donantes y donde el sector agropecuario-pesquero tiene una alta significación en las respectivas economías y en donde existe un alto potencial para la asistencia técnica de la FAO. Respaldamos, por ello, la propuesta que han hecho las diferentes representaciones de América Latina sobre el particular.

Más allá de estas propuestas específicas, señor Presidente, quisiéramos reiterar nuestro concepto en el sentido de que no creemos que se deba cambiar la naturaleza de la función de la FAO por consideraciones de tipo presupuestario. Reafirmamos que el acuerdo básico existente sobre el rol "naturaleza" en prioridades de la FAO, debe servir para la estructuración del presupuesto y no a la inversa. Desde el punto de vista político nos permitimos reafirmar nuestro compromiso con el multilateralismo que representa la FAO. Con ello estamos afianzando la responsabilidad de la comunidad internacional en los graves problemas que amenazan la sobrevivencia de la humanidad como efecto del hambre, la malnutrición y la degradación de nuestros recursos.

Pensamos que la inversión en desarrollo es una forma de preservar la paz. El mundo ha sido testigo reciente de graves amenazas a la paz como consecuencia de las crisis políticas y sociales que afectan a millones de personas en diversos países y cuyas causas directas se encuentran en la pobreza, particularmente la pobreza rural. Como nunca antes en la historia, asistimos a una migración masiva, no del sector rural a las capitales de nuestros propios países, si no hacia los países que tienen mayor bienestar, con todos los costos y riesgos que ello implica incluso para la estabilidad de los países más desarrollados. Por ello creemos que es impostergable, incluso más rentable, invertir en el desarrollo de los países fortaleciendo sus economías rurales y agrícolas y preservando sus recursos naturales, que gastar después miles de millones de dólares en operaciones de emergencia, en misiones de paz de altísimos costos que a lo que más pueden aspirar es a crear las condiciones para estabilizar un país, pero no el desarrollo mismo.

De ahí la justificación para que la FAO trabaje lo más cerca posible de los países, prestando asesoría en materia de formulación de políticas, asistencia técnica, movilizand recursos, transfiriendo tecnología, apoyando los programas de readecuación de agriculturas en estos países a las exigencias del nuevo orden comercial general por los acuerdos de la Ronda Uruguay, así como a la conservación de los recursos naturales de la diversidad biológica y de los recursos fitogenéticos; creemos, repito señor Presidente, que es en esta forma que la FAO puede y debe contribuir a resolver las necesidades de los países.

En tal sentido señor Presidente, consideramos inseparables las actividades normativas y operacionales; por ello mi país ha apoyado la descentralización de las actividades de la FAO, fortaleciendo la sede de la Oficina Regional de la FAO en Santiago. Para estos efectos el Gobierno de Chile ha acordado la construcción de una nueva sede para la Oficina Regional y ha estimado en el presupuesto fiscal de este año una partida cercana a los cinco millones de dólares para la construcción de un nuevo edificio. A ello debe sumarse un suplemento

especial al Fondo en Fideicomiso de este año que hace que este aporte sea, para el presente año, para el mantenimiento de la sede, del orden de un millón de dólares. Estando, en este concepto particular, al día en el pago de nuestras obligaciones.

En resumen señor Presidente, nuestro país desea reafirmar su compromiso con las principales funciones de la FAO, sus prioridades y la política de descentralización que el señor Director General lleva a cabo.

En tercer lugar, señor Presidente, debemos examinar, con el máximo cuidado posible, los problemas financieros de la Organización y, una vez que logremos un consenso sobre la forma de resolver el problema de las cuotas atrasadas y los déficit, repito, una vez que hayamos logrado esto, avocarnos a establecer los criterios para el nuevo Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

En cuanto a las cuotas atrasadas, debemos nosotros mismos encontrar una solución. Cada uno de nosotros tiene sus propios problemas, pero creo importante que se sepa cuál es nuestra decisión al respecto. Por nuestra parte declaramos que el Gobierno de Chile honrará su compromiso de pagar todas sus cuotas atrasadas en el plazo más breve posible; en los próximos días comenzaremos a hacerlo, porque creemos que es fundamental que con motivo del 50° Aniversario de la FAO podamos reflejar en los hechos nuestro compromiso con esta Organización. Nos permitimos sugerir al respecto que antes de la próxima Conferencia se pueda disponer de una amplia información sobre este punto en lo que respecta a las soluciones que se hayan podido encontrar respecto del problema de las cuotas y pagos atrasados.

En cuanto al presupuesto y programa propuesto queremos precisar muy brevemente nuestra posición. En primer lugar respaldamos el principio de crecimiento real cero porque creemos que es una base mínima aceptable. Dos, sobre el aumento de las contribuciones que ello implica pedimos un máximo esfuerzo para absorber los mayores costos a través de mayor eficiencia y racionalidad en los gastos. Creemos que hay un amplio espacio para ello, en todo caso todo el mundo debe respetar el principio básico de la equidad conyuntiva. Tres, no sería aceptable que los países en desarrollo cubrieran los déficit que podamos generar los países desarrollados. El presupuesto, finalmente, en nuestra opinión, debe ser realista y aprobado por consenso y en esto coincidimos con lo señalado por la representación de los Estados Unidos, pero al mismo tiempo señalamos que este presupuesto debe responder a las prioridades que han fijado los propios países.

Señor Presidente, estos son nuestros criterios y manifestamos nuestra mejor disposición para apoyar las soluciones que cauteleen los intereses de cada uno de nuestros países y los de la FAO. Pensamos que el momento es extraordinariamente delicado y requiere de nosotros la máxima responsabilidad, realismo y voluntad de compromiso para asegurar el futuro de la FAO.

Saleh Sadiq OSMAN (Tanzania): Mr Chairman, the Tanzanian delegation would like to fully associate itself with the statement made by the delegation of Burkina Faso on behalf of the African group. The Ambassador has expressed quite a number of our points of view. Our delegation also fully supports the view expressed by the Cameroon delegation, particularly its appeal to the United States to review its decision to reduce the level of its contributions to FAO.

We would now like to make a few comments on FAO activities and the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1996-97 biennium. Tanzania endorses the broadened concept of food security, comprising the three elements of availability of adequate food supplies, stability of food supplies and physical and economic access to food. My delegation feels that these should continue to be seen as basic elements of food security. We join the Programme and Finance Committees in emphasizing the importance of an adequate level of Regular Programme resources to ensure continuity of the core activities for the control of transboundary plant pests and animal diseases, including prevention, information exchange and early warning, and to serve as a catalyst for other funds, in particular in emergencies and campaigns. The Tanzanian delegation fully supports the Special Programme on the Emergency System (EMPRES).

With regard to the sub-programme on Conservation and Management of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources, we recognize the unique role FAO is playing in this area and stress the need to ensure continued cooperation and complementarity with other organizations concerned with genetic resources.

The Tanzanian delegation has also noted with concern the decline in the Organization's field activities, particularly under the UNDP funding. We appreciate, however, the efforts the Director-General is making to ensure funding for priority field activities and meeting the needs of member countries according to the policies and priorities of the Organization.

Regarding the special programme on food production in support of food security in LIFDCs, the Tanzanian delegation wishes to join others in supporting the criteria used to select countries for priority attention as given in paragraph 2.6.2 of document CL 108/14.

Mr Chairman, the Tanzanian delegation has noted with concern the difficult financial situation facing the Organization and would like to fully endorse the overall approach of zero growth in the budget and to reaffirm the principle of excluding the payment of arrears in the determination of assessments of Member Nations. We commend the Director-General's efforts to make economies while seeking to preserve the substantive output of the Organization.

In regard to the forum for discussion of nutrition matters, my delegation supports the proposal to transfer the standing item on nutrition in the COAG agenda to a standing item in the agenda of the CFS for the reasons given in paragraph 4 of document CL 108/9-SUP.1. It is my delegation's view that nutrition fits better into the agenda of the CFS, which also meets more often than COAG.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation endorses the recommendation of the Programme and Financial Committees requesting that the Council allows the Director-General to proceed with the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget, building on the summary, and taking into consideration the views and concerns expressed.

Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland): Mr Chairman, first of all, I wish to thank you, Mr Wade, and the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Mr Bommer,- for the excellent introduction to this very important and crucial topic of our discussion concerning the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. In particular, I wish to thank Mr Wade for providing us with additional information on the extra cost implications of the proposed World Food Summit and the suggested ways of how best to finance these. My delegation wishes to state its unwavering support for the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Burkina Faso on behalf of the African group of countries. However, I wish to submit one or two additional comments with respect to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 1996-97 biennium.

FAO's mandate is focused on the most basic problems facing the majority of mankind, namely, hunger, malnutrition, poverty and natural resource degradation. My delegation therefore believes that the new FAO administration should be given a chance to tackle these problems vigorously. Furthermore, Mr Chairman, my delegation believes that FAO cannot continue patting itself on the back as a centre of excellence when millions of people in Africa and elsewhere are drifting back to the cycle of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. In other words, the final test of FAO's effectiveness will be in the reduction or elimination of these basic problems. To achieve these ends FAO will require resources, irrespective of any arguments that may be advanced for a reduced budget. It is in that spirit that my delegation strongly advocates consensus, and possibly even unanimity, in adopting the report of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

We further wish to urge the Council to encourage the Director-General and his staff to proceed to the next stage of finalization of the full Programme of Work and Budget based on the principle of zero growth already agreed.

In this regard, Mr Chairman we applaud the Director-General for incorporating cost-saving measures in the development of the entire budget for the 1996-97 biennium. The zero growth budget presented for consideration by the Council is already a trimmed budget, reflecting stringent controls in a number of areas of expenditure. While we recognize the difficulties encountered by some member countries in meeting their financial obligations to FAO because of constraints in their domestic budgets, extreme caution should be employed in any move to further streamline this budget in response to the limited financial resources now at our disposal. Any reduction in the FAO Programme of Work, particularly at field level, would undoubtedly dilute the Organization's impact and further jeopardize the lives of millions of beneficiaries who are the targets of these programmes.

Mr Chairman, my delegation attaches special importance to the technical and economic programmes embraced in Major Programme 2.1: Agriculture Production and Support Systems; Major Programme 2.1: Food and Agriculture Policy and Development; Major Programme 2.3: Fisheries; Major Programme 2.4: Forestry; and Major Programme 2.5: Contributions to Sustainable Development and Special Programme Thrusts. Other activities which we believe are of cardinal importance in the FAO agenda include Major Programme 3.3: Field Operations and 4.1: Technical Cooperation Programme. Should there be any contemplation or decision to revise this Programme of Work and Budget, my delegation submits that the present budgetary levels for these activities should be maintained or revised upwards. Otherwise, we endorse the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1996-97 biennium as submitted.

Fernando RAS (Argentina): Gracias, señor Presidente. Seré sumamente breve. La Delegación Argentina desea agradecer a la Secretaría la labor realizada en la confección de los Informes sobre el Presupuesto 1996-1997, tarea que se llevó a cabo en circunstancias difíciles para la Organización. Se desea, sin embargo, señalar que, a nuestro juicio, los resultados del ejercicio son insuficientes, y sólo pueden considerarse un valioso primer intento de poner a la FAO a tono con los tiempos que corren. Los logros alcanzados por el Gobierno de mi país en el mantenimiento de un estricto control de sus erogaciones y equilibrio de las cuentas públicas, son de amplia difusión. En este contexto, la República Argentina se propone cumplir con las obligaciones internacionales contraídas, pero también entiende que la Organización debe realizar todos los esfuerzos posibles tendentes a aumentar la efectividad de su operatoria, en un marco que no conlleve un aumento de las cuotas de los Estados Miembros en ejercicios futuros.

Se entiende que ese esfuerzo debe realizarse no sólo en lo referido a los ajustes administrativos que ayudan a una mejor productividad de los recursos financieros disponibles -no hay duda de que todos compartimos esta aspiración-, sino que, fundamentalmente debemos continuar la tarea ya iniciada de priorización de funciones. La revisión y adecuación de las labores que desarrolla la Organización, su rol normativo, la complementariedad con otros órganos internacionales y sus funciones de asesoramiento para el desarrollo de políticas y de asistencia técnica son tareas que deben continuar profundizándose en los diferentes comités y grupos intergubernamentales.

Señor Presidente, los objetivos que fueron encomendados a la FAO hace 50 años, siguen necesitando urgente atención; no será fácil, pero nuestra responsabilidad es encontrar la mejor forma de atenderlos con los recursos efectivamente disponibles en la Organización.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. La estrategia de la alimentación y la agricultura, no puede suponer una separación de sus acciones; todo lo contrario, es por esto que conduce al establecimiento y fortalecimiento de la Cooperación. La dimensión entre regiones no puede prever una acción separada, pues, entre otras consideraciones, habitamos un mismo mundo, en el que las medidas que se adoptan apuntan cada vez más directamente a la supervivencia misma del hombre. Jamás en la historia de la humanidad se había producido una agresión tan generalizada y destructiva contra el equilibrio de todos los sistemas del planeta. Tan solo por hacer referencia a uno, la agricultura y el medio ambiente ha pasado de la periferia al centro mismo del debate técnico y a la toma de decisiones; pero esas tomas de decisiones no deberían ser bilaterales sino multilaterales. Hemos reiterado que no es posible desconocer la importancia que tiene, para la mejora de las condiciones de vida de los países en desarrollo, la elevación del nivel científico-técnico, y las iniciativas viables que combinen e introduzcan nuevos conceptos en la esfera de la capacitación, divulgación, información, intercambio, labores en el campo, etcétera. Llevar esta acción a la práctica es a su vez una necesidad indispensable para las metas nacionales de desarrollo. Hemos repetido que de todo esto se desprende que el papel de la FAO ha sido, es y debe continuar siendo, el ejercicio de ese liderazgo.

En intervenciones anteriores nos hemos referido a la necesidad e importancia de la FAO como organismo multilateral, en el entendido de que todo lo que contribuya a mantener el subdesarrollo, el hambre y la pobreza, contribuye igualmente a que se mantenga una violación flagrante de los principios más acuciantes de necesidad universal, y contribuye a profundizar las diferencias a costa de un orden económico mundial injusto y desigual.

También recordamos, señor Presidente, lo señalado en estas sesiones sobre la llamada fatiga de ayuda. Próximamente se cumplirán 50 años de la utilización de la bomba atómica en Asia; prácticamente 50 años después se ha lanzado en esta sala otra, al inicio de este tema en la sesión de la mañana. Ojalá que los efectos negativos y las secuelas dejadas por aquel holocausto no resulten iguales, pues al enfrentar esto con realismo político, pocas posibilidades se ofrecen, por lo inesperado.

Por el momento, señor Presidente, nos pronunciamos por el cumplimiento de los compromisos contraídos. Manifestamos nuestro apoyo a la FAO, a su universalidad, como citó Honduras, a su justa, humana y virtual función, a su obligado y coyuntural enfoque económico, aspectos que entiende nuestra Delegación ya han sido señalados, pero no podríamos dejar de reiterar nuestro firme apoyo a su actual Dirección y al conjunto de medidas elaboradas por el Dr. Diouf en su loable gestión y en la alta profesionalidad de sus funcionarios. Queremos destacar también la particular significación que le asignamos a la Cumbre Mundial, magno evento a realizar el próximo año.

Por lo demás, ayer manifestamos claramente nuestra posición y hoy sólo queremos ratificarla. Para ahorrar palabras y con el propósito de brevedad, Sr. Presidente, sólo nos resta sumarnos, en este sentido, a lo expresado ayer por el distinguido Embajador de Colombia, y a la significativa exposición de hoy del Representante de Burkina Faso, en nombre de la región africana.

Vernon DOUGLAS (Trinidad and Tobago): Trinidad and Tobago is represented on the Programme Committee and our initial views on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1996/97 are already incorporated in the Report of the 72nd Session of the Programme Committee in Document CL 108/14. Our remarks at this time will therefore be brief. As usual, Mr Chairman, in including these remarks we are also speaking on behalf of the thirteen member states of CARICOM.

Trinidad and Tobago endorses the priorities identified in Document CL 108/3. The more detailed information provided under Major Programmes suggest a comprehensive and carefully conceptualized programme that should address the important needs of members, especially in developing countries.

While I do not intend to go into the details of the Programme of Work, I would just like to highlight the people-focused programmes which are included in Major Programmes 2.5, Contributions to Sustainable Development and Special Programme Thrusts. In particular, I must mention the following sub-programmes: Education, Extension and Training, Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, Peoples' Participation, Land Tenure and Settlement and Rural Development.

These are all programme areas of considerable interest to my country as we attempt to give greater recognition to the importance of development of human resources and people's institutions in the agricultural development process.

Mr Chairman, the question of budget is a very difficult one to deal with. We have noted that in order to deal with budget limitations some areas of work have already been designated as low priority. This is in addition to various measures to improve cost-effectiveness in delivery of services.

In this period of restraint in public sector spending in most countries any proposals to increase contributions to FAO will very likely meet with some resistance. At the same time, the consequences of any reduction in the services provided by FAO must also be considered. Many of these services are vital to the agricultural development and food security of the developing countries.

In the countries of CARICOM where agriculture is still a major contributor to GDP and a major source of employment and, where significant pockets of malnutrition and poverty still exist, any reduction in the services of FAO is cause for concern.

Mr Chairman, my delegation feels that the zero real growth framework within which the Summary Programme of Work and Budget has been prepared already represents a high degree of compromise. As the debate leading to the determination of the Programme of Work and Budget continues, it is essential that polarization be eschewed and a consensus approach be actively fostered. This will provide the Director-General with the best chance of implementing a package of proposals which addresses the needs of

our country. However, such consensus should be based on active support of the Director-General's position since it is in our self-interest that the Director-General continues to pursue a path aimed at mobilizing increased development funds for agriculture, fisheries and hunger and poverty alleviation.

The zero real growth budget is the very least we can afford to accept at this time. In so far as the regulations of the Organization are concerned, this must be funded by assessed contributions. Accordingly we endorse the Director-General's proposals. This endorsement is also given on behalf of the CARICOM countries.

Wilberforce A. SAKIRA (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Uganda would like to associate itself fully with the views expressed by the delegation of Burkina Faso on behalf of the members of the Council and observers from Africa on this Agenda item.

However, we would like to offer a few observations, Mr Chairman, to supplement what has already been stated.

Mr Chairman, Uganda endorses the zero real growth budget and the principle of excluding payment of arrears in determination of assessments of Member Nations as proposed by the Director-General. Our delegation appreciates the initiatives taken by the Director-General in restructuring the Organization as endorsed by the Council at its 106th Session.

Mr Chairman, Uganda strongly supports the programmes or activities focusing on food production and food security. Consequently the Special Programme for Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-income Food-deficit Countries and the Emergency Prevention System, EMPRES, for transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases as well as IPM, Integrated Pest Management, Improved Water use and support to the expansion of irrigation, aquaculture development, and the World Food Summit have our strong support.

Mr Chairman, our delegation regards the Technical Cooperation Programme, TCP, as the life-blood of developing countries. It is regrettable, however, that resources for TCP have not been increased, contrary to Resolution 9/89 which stipulated that resources for TCP would account for 17 percent of the total effective budget.

We also support the following programmes, Mr Chairman, among those accorded high priority: the first one is a follow-up to UNCED and Sustainable Development; and the second is a Collection, Analysis, Interpretation, and Dissemination of information.

We would like to state that the following programmes are very important to our delegation, and it is a pity that they do not fall either in the high or lower priority areas. Under forestry, we have wood support programme; 2.4.1.2, Planting and Genetic Resources; 2.4.1.3 Forestry Conservation, wildlife and contribution to food security; 2.4.3.3, Community Forestry Development. And under fisheries are the following, Mr Chairman: 2.3.3.1, that is Fish Production; 2.3.3.2, that is Utilization and Marketing. And, Mr Chairman, we feel that, in general, FAO should give more attention to issues regarding research and. technology development and livestock production, but as of now we feel that there is very little work, especially in livestock sector.

Mr Chairman, we hope that USA will revise its decision regarding reduction of financial resources to FAO as this will have far-reaching implications and repercussions on the activities of the Organization and the entire United Nations system in the years to come. Finally, with those remarks we endorse the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97.

Mohammad Saeed NOURI-NAEEMI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): Thank you, Mr Chairman for giving me the floor. At the outset I would like to support the statement presented by the distinguished delegate of Egypt on behalf of the G 77.

Mr Chairman, being the last speaker gives me the opportunity to be brief and selective. Distinguished delegates who have spoken before me extensively and deeply covered all aspects of the issue under

consideration. I only touch upon a few general items. As regards the 1996/97 budget, it should be emphasized that we were talking about simultaneous resource allocating and financing of our Organization, our Organization's programme.

As far as resource allocation is concerned, we are facing an objective function subject to a series of constraints including financial limitations. The optimal solution will consist of simultaneous maximization of the objectives and minimization of the costs. Considering each item separately will not lead us to an optimum solution and might introduce serious distortions. In other words, if we are serious in our objective of providing opportunities for attaining a minimum food security for the 800 million existing hungry population of the world and an additional 300 million in the near future, we have to meet certain financial obligations below which this objective is not attainable.

Of course, achieving the highest cost-efficiency raised by so many delegations is a very legitimate argument and not only should receive most attention by the Secretariat but it should be documented and demonstrated to all Member States. Beyond this any cost reduction might be a distortion to the minimum, to the optimum solution, and therefore, unadvisable. In light of this fact, my delegation fully supports the proposed programme for biennium 1996/97 and considers it a minimum in achieving long-run food security objectives supported so many times almost by all the Member States in different FAO meetings. Identification of low-level priority areas by the Director-General is an excellent initiative and is highly commended by my delegation.

Mr Chairman, to be brief, as I promised, I summarize the recommendations of my delegation as follows:

First, we fully support the principle of zero real growth for the budget and consider any further budget cut as a setback to the FAO's responsibility to help developing member countries to achieve a minimum level of food security, the most important human right.

Second, in preparing the budget the Secretariat should not count on the arrears as a financial source because the Organization's past experiences show that this endangers the whole programme.

Third, further savings on publication emphasized by several distinguished delegates should not be extended too far. The majority of the publications are excellent sources of transfer of knowledge and know-how to developing countries of the world.

Fourth, reduction of subsidies to some particular programmes is a potential area for savings, given that those do not endanger the very existence of these activities.

Fifth, promoting FAO to a centre of excellence is not a luxury; it is an essential prerequisite for proper implementation of future field works and should receive due attention.

Sixth, the TCDC programme is an effective and cheap way of cooperative development and should receive high priority in the programme of the Organization.

Finally, Mr Chairman, there is a Persian proverb which says "Friendship would be best shown in the face of hardship. In prosperity everybody is a friend." Mr Chairman, my country has tried very hard to prove its friendship to FAO in spite of foreign exchange difficulties and devaluation of domestic money arising from structural adjustment programmes during the past year - that's May 1994 to May 1995. Our contribution to the Organization has exceeded \$6 million, and we are decided to continue our efforts in the same direction in the future. Once again, Mr Chairman, thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: Con esto concluimos la lista de oradores del Consejo. Tengo, además, una lista de observadores, pero antes de pasar a ellos pregunto si alguna otra Delegación desea hacer uso de la palabra. Como veo que no, se la otorgo al observador de Argelia.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Observateur de l'Algérie): Je commence mon intervention avec l'appui de la déclaration du Burkina Faso qui l'a prononcée au nom du groupe africain.

La délégation algérienne, qui participe au conseil en qualité d'observateur, s'identifie à la déclaration de M. Jacques Diouf prononcée à l'occasion de l'ouverture des travaux de cette session, qui a su avec conviction présenter d'une part la réalité de l'Organisation avec en toile de fond une crise financière et d'autre part les réalisations effectuées dans le cadre des changements et de la restructuration.

A l'heure de l'évaluation préliminaire de la mise en oeuvre de ces réformes, une année après leur adoption, il est réconfortant de constater que les différentes recommandations de restructuration portant tant sur le programme que sur la gestion administrative, ont connu un début d'application prometteur.

Ma délégation est reconnaissante au Directeur général pour la préparation du Sommaire du Programme de travail de budget pour l'exercice 1996-97. Elle tient aussi à exprimer son appréciation aux Présidents du Comité du Programme et du Comité Financier pour leur précieux apport à l'examen du sommaire lors de leurs réunions respectives et de leur session conjointe.

Dans son intervention du 5 juin 1995, le Directeur général a mis à juste titre l'accent sur la situation financière actuelle de l'Organisation. Nous partageons ses préoccupations devant les contraintes qu'elle fait gravement peser sur la gestion du Programme en cours et le financement des activités du prochain Programme de travail de l'Organisation.

Nous craignons que la persistance des incertitudes financières ne remette en cause la mise en oeuvre ordonnée et équilibrée des mesures retenues pour améliorer l'efficacité des activités de notre Organisation.

Nous regrettons la persistance de cette crise et nous estimons que la présente session se doit de focaliser son attention et de porter ses efforts sur la recherche de solutions durables pour mettre fin au problème de l'incertitude financière.

Nous pensons que l'une des premières mesures à cet égard consiste dans le respect par les Etats Membres de leurs obligations financières. Les Etats Membres doivent également déployer des efforts supplémentaires pour s'acquitter le plus rapidement possible de leurs arriérés. Dans cet esprit, nous nous félicitons de l'attitude positive prise récemment par certains Etats Membres de remplir leurs engagements financiers à l'égard du budget de l'Organisation, ce qui a permis d'améliorer la trésorerie de l'Organisation.

Ma délégation est pleinement consciente de la vulnérabilité de l'Organisation du fait de l'importance de la contribution d'un Etat Membre, et considère, au vu de la persistance de la crise financière, qu'il est nécessaire d'entamer une réflexion sur les moyens susceptibles de mettre l'Organisation à l'abri des pressions financières et sauvegarder son fonctionnement.

Au moment où l'Organisation est davantage sollicitée par les Etats Membres, et notamment les pays en développement, où la situation alimentaire de l'Afrique est plus critique que jamais, un projet de budget pour le biennium 1996-97 nous est soumis avec une croissance réelle nulle. Cet état de chose suscite des doutes quant à la capacité de l'Organisation de s'acquitter convenablement des activités et programmes décidés par ses organes délibérants, alors qu'on enregistre un accroissement des coûts.

Nous estimons que dans la mesure où le projet de budget est établi dans une situation de crise, donc de transition de par sa nature, il ne peut être considéré comme constituant une tradition pour l'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget que le Directeur général aura à proposer pour le biennium 1998-1999.

Ma délégation appuie la recommandation du Comité Financier et du Comité du Programme relative au niveau général du budget en prenant en considération l'indication du Secrétariat de l'Organisation lors de la session conjointe des deux Comités tenue en janvier, qu'il aura à proposer dans le courant de l'année des estimations révisées des coûts.

A titre préliminaire, et sous réserve d'un examen plus avant, nous sommes heureux de relever que le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget fait justice de certaines préoccupations exprimées par les Comités Financier et du Programme.

Nous avons noté avec satisfaction la primauté accordée au Programme spécial: production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier.

Tout en tenant compte avec satisfaction de la priorité accordée par le Directeur général au Programme de Coopération Technique, ma délégation se pose la question de savoir de quelle façon cette priorité est reflétée dans le Sommaire. Elle remarque avec regret que le Programme n'a pas bénéficié d'une augmentation telle que celle recommandée par la Conférence en 1989.

Ma délégation note avec satisfaction les déclarations du Directeur général visant à étendre les champs d'action initiaux à d'autres zones géographiques du système de prévention et de réponse rapide contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes. Il convient de rappeler que la lutte préventive mérite une attention particulière et que des ressources doivent être consacrées à la poursuite des actions de lutte intégrée contre le criquet pèlerin.

Nous ne devons pas permettre que les activités ordonnées et coordonnées actuellement en cours soient compromises. Force est cependant de reconnaître que nous n'avons pas retrouvé dans le Sommaire la concentration souhaitée sur la lutte préventive contre le criquet pèlerin et les mesures à suivre pour assurer une poursuite de cette lutte. Le Sommaire aurait certainement gagné en substance s'il s'était inspiré des exigences des situations actuelles qui prévalent dans les régions de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Nord-Ouest. Depuis 1993 les exigences du financement, une avancée plus audacieuse de la prise en charge de ce problème crucial aurait dû trouver avantageusement des expressions plus résolues. Par ailleurs, la réaffirmation du rôle central de la FAO dans l'articulation des activités de lutte est la bienvenue. A cet effet, il serait nécessaire qu'un fonds de réserve soit créé afin de permettre d'assurer le financement des activités de lutte dans les situations d'urgence, pour reprendre la proposition du Groupe des 77 et de la Tunisie.

Enfin, le Sommaire a mis en relief les nombreux domaines de priorité et les domaines d'un rang de priorité moindre. Les propositions qui ont été formulées ont leur pertinence, mais elles auraient gagné à être revues en fonction des propositions faites par notre délégation dans le cadre du Comité du Programme, à savoir l'importance du Programme 2.1.3 pour l'élevage, du Programme 2.2.1 pour la nutrition et du Programme 2.5.1 développant le transfert de technologies.

Nous insistons sur le rôle à jouer par la FAO dans le cadre des analyses et des études à mener pour les répercussions des accords de l'Uruguay sur les pays en développement et les pays importateurs nets de produits de base, ainsi que l'assistance à fournir à ces pays sous un aspect technique et financier.

A l'évidence, le Sommaire constitue une contribution importante à l'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget qui aura pour effet de donner une impulsion significative à l'action de notre Organisation en tant que cadre où s'harmonisent les efforts des Etats Membres vers les fins communes les plus nobles. Ce Sommaire a le mérite d'indiquer le chemin et il appartient maintenant à toutes les bonnes volontés de s'y engager.

Mohamed Said Mohamed ALI HARBY (Observer for Sudan): First and foremost, I wish to express my support for the genuine points raised by the Chairman of the G 77 and for the strong statement presented by Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Group. However, I have a brief and specific message on behalf of my delegation.

My delegation considers the Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries to be a vital element in our struggle to increase food production and to achieve food security. The way in which this Programme has been conceived and is being implemented convinces us of its potential success. This can only be achieved if the Programme is pursued with full vigour and in a timely manner, and it can be done only if the Programme is supported by adequate resources.

Mr Chairman, if there is one concern of paramount importance to the low-income food-deficit countries, it is the achievement of food security. Therefore, it deserves maximum priority in FAO's programmes. This fact was well recognized by the Member Nations of the Organization when the FAO Council at its 106th Session in May 1994 approved by consensus the Director-General's proposal to launch the Special Programme, with the resource shifts necessary for this purpose.

Therefore, Mr Chairman, we hope that the final version of the Programme of Work and Budget will include adequate financial provisions for the Special Programme.

Jacob Bernard POSTERS (Observer for the Netherlands): Mr Chairman, I shall be brief as usual. The announcement of the largest contributor that a new era is beginning raises the question what sort of era we have to look forward to. My delegation is of the opinion that the Member States of this important Organization are equal. However, to paraphrase George Orwell in his novel *Animal Farm*, "some are more equal than others". To apply this to FAO, one might translate Orwell in the sense that certain Member States have a heavy responsibility to this Organization. In our opinion, no single Member State can unilaterally take the decision not to honour its obligation with regard to the payment of its annual contribution. In our opinion, this is unacceptable in principle.

Mr Chairman, my country continues to support the principle of a budget based on zero real growth, like many of us. Further, we welcome the approach of the Director-General to return to sound financial management by excluding arrears that seem irrecoverable within the budget period.

In studying the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, my delegation was struck by two points. Firstly, the fact that no figures can be provided for the past biennium, thereby not allowing us to make a comparison between past and future; secondly, the appearance of lower priorities. I will briefly comment on each of these points.

During the COAG and the meetings of the other technical committees, my delegation expressed its concern about the lack of figures for the various programmes and priorities. Mr Wade in his introduction gave a clear explanation for why these figures cannot be provided now. Nevertheless, we hope to see such figures in two years' time. My second point concerns the introduction of lower priorities. My delegation appreciates this development in principle and considers it a courageous one. The remark in chapter 1.8 concerning "sharpening the perception of the FAO as a centre of excellence in its mandated areas through high-quality outputs" is fully endorsed by my delegation. UNCED and its follow-up activities will also have to play a central role in the activities of this Organization. The main priority areas, food security and production, follow-up to UNCED and sustainable development, policy advice, data collection and analysis, technical assistance to international trade and field activities, are very well in line with the Netherlands' position with regard to FAO.

For my country, however, it is difficult to accept the ranking of rural development as a low priority. During the last conferences my country pointed repeatedly to the importance of this Programme. Further, it is difficult to believe that Women in Development and People's Participation came out of the questionnaire as low priorities. I would appreciate some clarification on this point.

Finally, my delegation would like to put on record its disagreement with the remarks made by some delegations concerning support costs for Trust Fund activities. These remarks are, in our view, based on a misinterpretation of the cost measurement study. This study does not take into account the extent to which the Regular Programme benefits from the Field Programme funded through Trust Funds. They are considerable and we are not at all convinced that there is a subsidy from the Regular Programme to the Field Programme. Actually, we would not be surprised if we could quantify these benefits; it would be the other way round. The Netherlands, being the major donor to the Trust Fund activities, is for that reason not prepared to increase the percentage that it pays for support costs. We made this clear during the 1993 Conference and this remains our position. However, we strongly support the approach that the Director-General has proposed that savings are to be made in the support costs themselves.

Moussa Bocar LY (Observateur du Sénégal): Le Ministre sénégalais de l'agriculture lui-même a donné l'appui de mon pays au programme travail et budget à croissance réelle zéro bien qu'à contrecœur en raison des réductions que cela entraîne nécessairement sur des programmes pourtant importants de cette Organisation. Je crois que la représentante de la Belgique et le représentant de la Norvège ont mis le doigt sur les questions essentielles en ce qui concerne la situation financière. Car en effet celle-ci appelle une responsabilité partagée du Secrétariat et des Etats Membres. Du Secrétariat, il nous semble qu'en réalité depuis notre cent sixième session du Conseil, il a montré la voie. En effet, la Conférence lui a demandé de

faire des propositions de restructuration à partir du budget déjà voté. Il a été en mesure de nous présenter des propositions que nous avons adoptées et qui permettent une rationalisation, une décentralisation et une réduction des dépenses administratives que nous devons saluer. De même, en recherchant la règle financière saine le Secrétariat a mis le doigt sur le fait qu'on ne devrait pas utiliser les arriérés pour financer le budget et pourtant c'est ce qui a été fait les années passées par nos propres Etats Membres ici représentés. Il nous semble que l'on doive rechercher d'un autre côté quelle est la responsabilité des Etats Membres. Les Etats Membres se trouvent aujourd'hui devant la nécessité de prendre un budget à croissance réelle zéro et pourtant handicapé par des arriérés de contributions et également mis en difficulté par certaines déclarations sur des possibilités de réduction de contributions importantes.

Il nous faut donc nous arrêter un moment pour nous interroger sur notre propre responsabilité car en réalité le succès ou l'échec de la FAO serait le succès ou l'échec à la fois des Etats Membres et du Secrétariat qui l'anime sous nos directives.

Cela me permet d'en venir à l'analyse qu'a faite le représentant du Chili, et que je partage, selon laquelle nous gagnerions à avoir une FAO efficace avec des ressources suffisantes pour lui permettre de réaliser les objectifs pour lesquels nous l'avons créée. Pourquoi cela? Parce que les opérations d'urgence et de maintien de la paix montrent qu'elle draine des ressources considérables d'importants Etats Membres. Or, la FAO, en menant la lutte contre la malnutrition et la faim dans le monde, permet de faire une opération de prévention. Par conséquent en finançant la FAO nous serions bénéficiaires car nous ferions par là même des économies. Il serait bon de privilégier la prévention avant de pouvoir englober des ressources importantes dans des opérations de sauvegarde. Il nous semble donc que cette analyse mérite de retenir l'attention de votre Conseil.

L'Afrique, en ce qui la concerne, bien que durement frappée par la crise économique internationale, malgré ses efforts énormes, a décidé, comme l'a dit la représentante Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Burkina Faso, de faire des efforts pour honorer ses engagements. Nous voudrions lancer un appel à tous ceux qui sont ici présents pour qu'ils honorent également leurs engagements et pour que notre Organisation puisse réaliser les objectifs pour lesquels nous l'avons créée car si nous devons repenser nous-mêmes les objectifs fondamentaux que nous devons assigner à la FAO ce serait me semble-t-il un chemin complexe et dangereux qui nous serait tracé mais je crois que votre Conseil a les ressources nécessaires pour pouvoir assurer un sursaut vers le consensus nécessaire que l'on doit rechercher et qui pourrait d'ailleurs être poursuivi d'ici la Conférence et impliquer l'ensemble des Etats que nous sommes.

Souhaib Deen BANGOURA (Observateur de la Guinée): Ma délégation remercie le Secrétariat pour son document exhaustif. Notre porte-parole du groupe africain a exprimé ce matin ce que nous pensions et nous estimons que l'essentiel a été dit. Le document qui nous est soumis est un pôle d'attraction de toutes les activités de notre Organisation. Le programme budget proposé par le Directeur général, notamment les priorités dans le programme sur la sécurité alimentaire, à savoir le programme spécial sur la production à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, cette priorité a déjà reçu le soutien du Conseil. A cet effet il faudrait y affecter davantage de ressources, l'objectif visé étant de permettre aux pays d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire en développant leur production locale tant en qualité qu'en stabilité, réduisant ainsi leur indépendance à l'importation des produits alimentaires et vis-à-vis de l'aide alimentaire, contribuant également à l'emploi et à l'augmentation des ressources.

Ma délégation appuie sans ambages le programme et le budget proposés par le Directeur général. Ma délégation renforce la position du Directeur général et se rallie à la proposition du groupe africain.

Il est regrettable que la délégation des Etats-Unis soit descendue du train à mi-chemin, mais nous osons espérer qu'en dépit des apparences elle parviendra à réviser sa position.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido Observador de Guinea. Me corresponde ahora pedirle al señor Director General de la FAO que ofrezca sus reacciones al debate.

Tiene usted la palabra señor Director General.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, je voudrais d'abord remercier le Président d'avoir bien voulu me donner la parole.

J'ai tenu à assister personnellement depuis ce matin à ce débat pour pouvoir vous écouter et surtout pouvoir vous entendre. Cette discussion est fondamentale car elle va déterminer l'avenir de cette Organisation.

Vous m'avez fait le très grand honneur de m'élever par votre vote à la fonction de Directeur général de la FAO. Ce faisant, vous m'avez chargé d'une responsabilité, et cette responsabilité j'entends l'assumer. J'entends l'assumer d'abord en respectant le principe fondamental d'universalisme qui est le fondement de notre institution. J'entends l'assumer en veillant à ce que les objectifs de cette institution, tels que fixés par ses pères fondateurs, puissent se réaliser. Cela suppose d'abord que je tienne compte de l'avis de toutes les parties. Il y a des pays qui ont une préférence particulière pour les actions normatives et je le comprends. Cela correspond à leur stade de développement et à leur intérêt national. Il y a des pays pour lesquels ce qui est important c'est ce que nous faisons concrètement dans leur pays pour le développement, de l'agriculture et des capacités à produire les aliments qui sont nécessaires à leurs besoins. Le Directeur général ne peut donner la priorité à une action au détriment de l'autre.

Je voudrais dire aussi que ce principe d'universalisme m'impose d'essayer de rechercher le consensus. Mais en dernière analyse le consensus est de votre responsabilité puisque c'est vous, les Etats, qui allez prendre les décisions. Mon rôle est de faciliter et d'encourager ce consensus. A cet égard je voudrais remercier les délégations qui ont pris la peine de venir discuter avec moi leur position, parfois même discuter avec moi de leur projet de déclaration, parce que ces délégations ont bien compris que je suis là pour l'ensemble des Etats et que je suis là pour leur donner objectivement mon avis et mon sentiment.

Je voudrais dire aussi que vous m'avez demandé, lors de ma prise de fonctions, de vous indiquer les voies que nous devons emprunter pour réaliser les objectifs que cette Organisation s'est assignés. Vous m'avez demandé de procéder à la restructuration de cette Organisation. Vous m'avez demandé de réaménager les ressources de cette Organisation. Je l'ai fait et vous avez eu la bonté d'accepter à l'unanimité ces propositions. Je ne peux pas, six mois après, remettre en cause tout ce qui a été décidé à l'unanimité. Une institution doit être cohérente elle ne peut pas prendre des décisions, et trois jours après aller à droite, et quelques jours après aller à gauche, revenir en arrière, ce n'est pas dans ces conditions que nous allons bâtir quelque chose de cohérent. En essayant de mettre en oeuvre vos directives nous veillerons à le faire avec le plus grand professionnalisme possible, cela ne veut pas dire que nous ne ferons pas des erreurs, nous ne sommes que des êtres humains et nous sommes prêts à reconnaître nos erreurs, nous sommes prêts à écouter des avis et des conseils et surtout nous sommes prêts à travailler avec vous pour éviter les erreurs. Si donc sur un programme ou une activité il y a des possibilités d'amélioration nous vous demandons, s'il vous plaît, de n'être pas seulement des observateurs mais des acteurs du succès de ces programmes. Compte tenu de mon devoir de loyauté à vos égards, je ne peux pas ne pas vous dire que la situation de cette institution n'est pas aisée. Quand j'ai pris mes fonctions le premier janvier 1994, j'ai dû, comme cela est naturel, attendre quelques mois pour que les comptes soient finalisés et à l'issue de cette finalisation des comptes je me suis rendu compte que j'avais, au départ, un déficit de 42,2 millions de dollars. En étudiant plus avant la structure financière de l'Organisation, j'ai réalisé que l'on avait établi un budget dont le financement devait être assuré pour 38 millions de dollars par le paiement d'arriérés qui aujourd'hui ne se sont pas matérialisés et, si les informations que nous avons sont justes, il y a très peu de chances pour que cela se matérialise avant la fin de l'exercice budgétaire. Je me suis donc trouvé chargé de mettre en oeuvre un programme avec 80,2 millions de dollars de déficit.

Je voudrais, là aussi, parler très franchement à certains de nos amis qui sont intervenus et qui disent qu'ils ne comprennent pas pourquoi il y eu des retards dans les recrutements et qu'il faut revoir le système. Il n'y a aucun système à revoir. Il y a eu des retards parce que je n'avais pas de quoi payer le personnel; ce n'est pas une question de système. Si j'avais exécuté à cent pour cent le budget en accélérant les procédures de recrutement, nous aurions terminé cet exercice budgétaire avec 80 millions de dollars de déficit. J'ai pensé qu'il était de ma responsabilité de ne pas m'en tenir strictement à l'autorisation qui m'était donnée de dépenser, y compris en utilisant des emprunts. J'ai estimé que je devais faire cet effort afin d'absorber les coûts et de diminuer les dépenses.

J'ai fait la même chose pour pouvoir dégager des ressources afin de lancer les deux programmes prioritaires relatifs à la sécurité alimentaire et à la lutte préventive contre les ravageurs et contre les maladies des plantes et des animaux. Je suis prêt - parce que c'est mon devoir - à continuer d'étudier les moyens par lesquels on pourrait faire des économies. Mais il y a aussi, il faut le dire, de fausses économies. Quand on me dit: "Dans tel pays, il faut faire un regroupement avec les Nations Unies", c'est une excellente idée mais quand, dans ce pays, les locaux nous sont déjà fournis gratuitement et que, si je me joins aux Nations Unies, j'aurai une contribution à payer pour les loyers, dois-je le faire?

On me dit que l'on pourrait faire appel à des consultants. Mais les consultants coûtent cher et je ne suis pas convaincu qu'un consultant quelconque puisse nous fournir le remède miracle pour diminuer les dépenses dans nos budgets. Cela est de notre responsabilité, au niveau des Etats Membres et à celui du Secrétariat de l'Organisation. Il est de notre responsabilité de dire ce qu'il faut diminuer au profit de ce qu'il faudra augmenter.

Nous avons respecté le processus normal de consultation pour arriver à un budget de consensus. Nous avons commencé avec un document préliminaire qui prévoyait 16 pour cent d'augmentation des contributions à l'intérieur d'un budget à croissance zéro réelle. Après avoir entendu vos opinions, ce budget a été diminué et celui que nous avons présenté au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier ne prévoyait plus que 11,7 pour cent d'augmentation des contributions. Nous avons pris l'engagement, à cette réunion, de continuer à faire les efforts nécessaires pour que, lorsque nous arriverons à la présentation du projet de budget détaillé, nous fassions encore davantage d'économies parce que, en discutant avec vous et écoutant vos suggestions, nous nous rendons compte qu'il y a des domaines où l'on peut encore faire des efforts; et, je le répète, nous allons le faire et essayer de vous présenter un projet de budget encore plus réduit.

Mais l'on ne peut pas non plus ignorer le fait que le budget de la FAO, au cours de ces dernières années, est celui qui a entraîné l'augmentation des contributions des Etats la plus basse dans tout le système des Nations Unies. Je voudrais rappeler ces chiffres: l'augmentation du taux de contribution de 1990-91 à 1994-95 a été de 41,60 pour cent pour l'Organisation internationale du travail, 32,23 pour cent pour l'OMS, 23,60 pour cent pour l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique, 22,87 pour cent pour l'Unesco, 19,50 pour cent pour les Nations Unies, 17,55 pour cent pour l'ONUDI, et seulement 11,49 pour cent pour la FAO.

Voilà comment on a mis des moyens à la disposition de l'Organisation qui a la responsabilité d'aider à régler les problèmes de l'alimentation dans le monde et de s'occuper de ce qui constitue la base de l'existence humaine, à savoir les ressources végétales, animales, halieutiques, forestières, tout ce qui fait notre écologie et tout ce qui fait l'environnement dans lequel nous vivons. On ne peut pas ignorer tout cela, on ne peut pas regarder vers l'avenir sans savoir le chemin qu'on a parcouru; et si nous comprenons bien qu'il y a une nouvelle conjoncture internationale et qu'il faut nous adapter à cette réalité, il faut aussi que nous réalisons que nous avons un objectif, une foi, une conviction et que, pour obtenir des résultats, les moyens nécessaires doivent nous être fournis.

Encore une fois, je voudrais exprimer ma gratitude aux Etats Membres qui ont positivement répondu à mon appel lorsque, il y a deux mois, j'ai indiqué que nous étions dans une situation difficile. En deux mois, 62 millions de dollars de contributions ont été payés par les Etats Membres et, au cours de cet exercice budgétaire, 36 millions d'arriérés ont été payés. Il y a donc des raisons d'espérer et je ne voudrais pas que quelques événements, à droite et à gauche, puissent d'une manière ou d'une autre empêcher de voir l'engagement des Etats Membres, leur volonté de servir cette institution et leur adhésion à l'esprit d'universalisme et au multilatéralisme. Soixante-deux millions de dollars payés en deux mois, c'est la preuve que nos Etats Membres croient en cette institution. C'est pour cela que, moi, j'ai la foi. Nous traversons effectivement une période difficile mais, comme je sais pouvoir compter sur vous, je n'ai pas d'inquiétude pour l'avenir. En ce qui nous concerne, nous ferons notre travail mais, là aussi, donnez-en nous le temps! Vous avez approuvé des modifications de structure et des mécanismes qui vont permettre de mettre en place des systèmes plus efficaces qui vont entraîner des économies. Cette décision a été prise il y a à peine un an; il faut l'appliquer. Je ne peux pas, dès maintenant, faire état d'économies alors que les mécanismes ne sont pas encore en place.

L'accord de coopération technique entre pays en développement, par exemple, va nous permettre d'être plus efficaces; mais il a fallu d'abord créer cet accord, le faire discuter, approuver et signer. Il faut identifier les experts dans les pays, les faire évaluer, les mettre dans des banques de données, identifier les projets. Un

agronome serait heureux de dire: "Il ne faut pas mettre la charrue avant les boeufs." Là encore, lorsque nous prenons des initiatives, il faut qu'elles s'accompagnent des ressources nécessaires. S'il vous plaît, facilitez-nous la tâche!

Nous envisageons d'ouvrir une représentation auprès du Japon. Le Japon est quand-même aujourd'hui le plus grand pays du point de vue de l'aide mondiale, si l'on exclut l'aide militaire; et nous ne sommes pas présents, dans l'un de nos pays les plus importants qui offre, en plus, des perspectives pour l'avenir, afin d'établir des contacts directs pour obtenir plus de ressources et être plus efficaces.

Nous ne pouvons pas avoir la Communauté européenne comme Membre et ne pas y être présents alors que nous savons qu'il y a là les fonds qui vont aller vers les pays d'Afrique, d'Asie et d'Amérique latine. Et là, je voudrais remercier la représentante de la Belgique parce que nous n'avons pas décidé d'appliquer cette idée sans tenir compte des coûts, nous avons sollicité les autorités belges qui ont eu la gentillesse de mettre des bureaux gratuitement à notre disposition; et les experts que nous allons envoyer là-bas ne sont pas des experts supplémentaires, ce sont des experts que nous allons redéployer.

Au-delà des apparences, il faut remarquer "la substantifique moelle", comme l'a dit un grand homme français. Et au-delà des apparences, il faut regarder le fond des choses. Nous essayons - et je dis bien "nous" parce que c'est un travail d'équipe, je ne fais qu'animer une équipe. Au sein de cette Organisation, nous avons une équipe de personnes qui croient en ce qu'elles font, qui veulent servir cette institution, qui veulent changer les choses, parce que nous n'oublierons jamais que nous sommes là pour veiller à ce qu'il n'y ait plus 800 millions de personnes qui n'ont pas accès à la nourriture, qu'il n'y ait plus 192 millions d'enfants au-dessous de cinq ans qui ont un déficit en protéines et en calories. C'est là notre raison d'être; c'est cela notre raison de vous servir. Et j'ose espérer que vous allez continuer à nous aider à le faire.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Señor Director General, por sus palabras sinceras que nos han permitido tener una visión global de los datos que enfrentó usted al tomar posesión de su alto cargo, datos tanto de carácter financiero como de tipo estructural, y por esta perspectiva global de los debates del día de hoy, que depositan la responsabilidad del futuro de esta Organización de su mandato, de la seguridad alimentaria y la salvación de millones, en los Estados Miembros y sus obligaciones hacia esta Institución.

Si me permite usted, Señor Director General, le voy a pedir al Dr. Wade que haga uso de la palabra para responder a cuestiones más específicas. Tiene usted la palabra, Dr. Wade.

T. WADE (Officer-in-Charge, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I would like to answer a few technical questions and make a few clarifications, if I may. There seems to be a misunderstanding about the increase of 11.7 percent in the minds of one or two delegates. As this is something you report back to your capitals on, I think it is worth clarifying. The 11.7 percent is the total increase on assessed contributions from US\$620.8 million last time to US\$693.2 million this time. In that there is an increase of US\$31.8 million for cost increases, that is, 4.6 percent on the biennium. The total amount, US\$31.8 million, expressed as a percentage of the assessments last time, US\$620.8 million, is 4.6 percent. If you did that on the basis of an annualized percentage, it would be closer to three percent - three percent per annum. So if you are arguing figures back in your capitals, please do not quote the 11.7 percent as cost-increases; it is not.

The balance, as you know, is made up largely by the sum of US\$ 38 million of arrears funding plus a small adjustment on miscellaneous income.

The distinguished delegate of France raised the question of grade structure, which was also raised in the Finance Committee, and compared the two figures of director posts, D-level posts, 204, to professional posts, 953, and drew certain conclusions about generals and foot soldiers. I am very grateful to the Mexican Delegation for filling in the missing information there.

From our point of view, I would like to clarify the point that the director level figure is not a number that expresses people holding managerial positions. In the United Nations system the D-1 post is used extensively for senior technical staff and so, for example, if you take the Investment Centre Division it has some 20 D-1

staff members because their job is leading missions to countries and dealing with ministers of agriculture on multi-million dollar projects and not because they are in managerial positions of Division Director or Service Chief.

Similarly, included in that figure, it is worth noting that most of the FAORs hold their grade primarily because of their representational function and not because they are managing 10 or 15 other staff. In fact, if you adjust for those two factors - and you can argue about what you should adjust for - then at least those two should be adjusted for and the ratio is around seven to eight professional D-level posts which, in the normal managerial span of six persons reporting to you is not unreasonable.

I would express gratitude to the United Kingdom and to other members for suggesting ways in which we can save costs. I would like to comment that we do not sit here waiting for those suggestions, mind you. We are doing a great deal of work in this area and all of the areas that the UK mentioned, in fact, we are working on. That does not make them any less valid but I would like to make one point and that is it takes time. You cannot, for example, streamline the procedures of an organization overnight. If you do, you risk losing control. What you have to do is to study the detail and work out what is the correct way of doing things and then implement it in a controlled and sensible manner. What is being suggested, if I understand it correctly, is a US\$100 million cut in the budget, say about 15 percent. That means about 500 posts being taken out of this Organization, all in a period of something like six or seven months. I do not accept the argument that that can be done simply through improving efficiency and so on in that period of time. You do not make those sort of changes in that time frame.

Turning very briefly to the question of support costs, I think most of the arguments were put. I would like to emphasize what the Director-General's response was to the last Conference. You will recall at the last Conference the previous Director-General made a proposal whereby we did increase the rate of reimbursement of support cost expenditure, that is, we asked the Trust Fund donors to pay more. That was rejected and I think rejected fairly firmly and the current Director-General was asked to go back and consult with Member Nations and determine an appropriate response. He did that. He recognized there was not consensus on this issue and he decided the only solution was to reduce costs and, in fact, there is a programme of reducing administrative and operations costs in this Organization.

There is a trial decentralization of an operating unit out to a regional office, which will substantially reduce the cost of operations, particularly because of the need for support staff in that function and, therefore, I do not think you should assume we are doing nothing. I do not think you should assume the so-called subsidy -and I have some doubts about that word - will continue to exist at past levels.

In the Programme Implementation Report you will see that at its absolute levels it has fallen very substantially. In fact, we do agree with some remarks of Member Nations that this cannot be expressed as a subsidy. It is a cost of the Organization providing services in one of its basic functions so it is legitimate to be a charge against the Organization's Regular Programme.

In the case of TCP there was one clarification I wish to make. TCP has not been reduced. What we were trying to make clear in the document was that, because of the implementation of the new arrangements for retirees, for TCDC, for TCCT and use of academics and research institutions, we have identified costs savings of round about US\$4.8 million in providing the same number of person-months of services to TCP projects. In other words, the appropriation of US\$82.3 million could be reduced by US\$4.8 million to 77.5 million and we would still deliver the same services as we did before but we have not reduced it. We have left it at US\$82.3 million which means that the purchasing power of the US\$82.3 million has risen by over 6 percent and as a result I would like to emphasize there has not been a reduction. In fact, there has been an effective increase.

The distinguished delegate of France mentioned recruitment lead times and the Director-General responded to that. The only comment I would make is that if we are successful in reducing recruitment lead times, the cost of the budget goes up because the methodology for the lapse factor accepts that we would reduce the percentage reduction we make there. I hope we are successful in doing that.

On the supplementary appropriation, several questions were asked and I think the question really is where do we expect resources to come from? Quite frankly, I cannot tell you but there are two potential sources. One is that if arrears payments happened to be made in excess of the requirements needed to make a proportional reduction in the deficit, then you would be in a position of having provided funds to us which we are not authorized to spend. In other words, if we get a good flow of arrears in, however unlikely some of you may feel this to be, we have no capacity to spend those arrears unless you give us some authorization.

The second point is that it is not unknown in the history of this Organization for some Member Governments to be extraordinarily generous in providing special contributions to the Organization to assist it in certain circumstances. Again, we need some authority to spend that money; hence the concept of the supplementary appropriation.

The distinguished delegate of China asked some questions with regard to staff costs and I would be more than happy to explain them outside the meeting. In general, however, the ratio of staff costs and non-staff costs have effectively declined. If I can put that in another way, there are more dollars per professional staff member to implement the programme than there was before we did the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The total staff costs you find in paragraph 46 represent the costs of all staff funded from the Regular Programme. If you have done what one inventive delegate did on the Programme Committee, which is add up all the staff costs in the book and compare them with paragraph 46, they do not agree. The reason is we treat the costs of publications as a non-staff cost. As publications involve a Division of this Organization, GIP, which does have staff, you can see that there is a staff cost hidden in the non-staff column. If you need a fuller explanation than that outside the meeting then I would be more than happy to give it to you. In fact, it does reconcile.

With regard to Plant Genetic Resources, I should comment on that because one gets the feeling people think that the whole plant genetic resource process and the Conference are being funded from entirely extra-budgetary resources. This is not true. There are Regular Programme allocations for this. There are extra-budgetary allocations to it and the Conference is being planned on the basis of the resources available.

The distinguished delegate of Cameroon sought clarification on the status of the low-priority items. I would emphasize the fact that the opening paragraph states they are indicative only. The purpose of putting them in there was to obtain your opinion as Member Nations as to whether these were low-priority areas for you. Obviously some you have confirmed and others you have not. The consequence could, of course, be a reduction or a complete elimination of the provision and that depends very much on the outcome of this entire process.

Finally, in response to the observer from the Netherlands, I would say that, yes, in the 1998/99 budget we do return to the format where you see base, change and the proposed budget level. In other words, the problem we are facing now is a one-off problem. In fact, in the full Programme of Work and Budget you will also see something like that down to sub-programme level. Why? Because our presentation method will be to take the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for each sub-programme and show you the change from that level. As the Summary Programme of Work and Budget pretty well represents the base for restructuring, it is a legitimate and useful way of showing you what will happen between now and the final Programme of Work and Budget.

Ms Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): Given the number of comments addressed by other delegations to my delegation I would like to offer the following brief comments: the United States welcomes and supports the Director-General's evident commitment to sound fiscal management of FAO. We also recognize his innovative effort to redress the challenges of hunger, agricultural development, fisheries and forestry. We also find encouraging his interest in seeking a consensus solution in the interests of many other delegations in a consensus budgetary process.

That said, I would like to stress again our situation remains fluid and uncertain. I cannot respond to the pleas for a change in decision because no decision has been made. The United States is in a legislative process. Many of us have similar legislative processes which are frustrating, time-consuming and difficult but the fact remains that all resources available to FAO are likely to be scarce and the United States' resources are very likely to be less than our most recent appropriations provided.

Given that, if we proceed without any effort to reduce the budget beyond the various zero real growth formula suggested by other delegations before we adopt it, we believe the Organization will be facing a similar situation, perhaps an even more serious one, in the next biennium than today.

FAO's responsibilities have to be met with resources available to the Organization. If we avoid that fact, if we resist building in more flexibility in the programme and operations, my delegation believes we will fail to achieve all the promise of the new leadership and his creative reorganization.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Consejo ha tomado nota, Sra. delegada de los Estados Unidos, de la situación en que se encuentra el debate presupuestario de su país y las implicaciones que ello podría tener para esta Organización.

Distinguidos delegados, si no hay ningún otro comentario me voy a permitir resumir este difícil debate que hemos sostenido.

En primer lugar, advertir que el Consejo agradeció al Presidente de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas, así como a la Secretaría de la FAO, por la presentación del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1996-97.

El Consejo tomó nota con reconocimiento de la labor del Director General en la preparación de los documentos de apoyo a este resumen, así como de la labor de los presidentes y miembros del Comité de Finanzas y del Programa por sus comentarios y recomendaciones al Consejo en relación al resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, que tanto apoyaron el debate sostenido.

El Consejo también tomó nota con reconocimiento de las reflexiones sinceras y aclaratorias del Director General en torno al debate y los retos financieros y estructurales que ha enfrentado, y que sigue enfrentando esta Organización, y del hecho de que la responsabilidad de su futuro está en manos de los Estados Miembros.

El Consejo destacó el mandato y la necesidad de que la FAO mantenga su liderazgo, tanto como centro de excelencia en cuestiones agrícolas y alimentarias, como en la promoción de sus programas de campo y de cooperación técnica buscando un balance adecuado entre los aspectos normativos y operativos. Todo ello en el contexto de las reformas y el proceso de descentralización introducido por el Director General y que ha recibido un apoyo pleno de parte de los Organos Rectores de la Organización. Esto permitirá potenciar las ventajas competitivas de la Organización.

Los Miembros del Consejo se pronunciaron en torno a un conjunto de programas y actividades que a su juicio debían recibir preferencia y prioridad. Ello incluía las recomendaciones formuladas por los Comités Técnicos de Agricultura, de Pesca, de Montes, así como por el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos y de Seguridad Alimentaria y también el proceso preparatorio y celebración de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. Como esos pronunciamientos se encuentran en los verbatim, y son de carácter múltiple, no los reflejaré en mi informe, ya que ustedes podrán encontrarlos, repito, en los verbatim.

Sin embargo se tomó nota de que la única manera de hacer frente a las prioridades señaladas por las delegaciones, que son múltiples y de distinto carácter, era con la posibilidad de contar con recursos financieros suficientes para hacerles frente.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, esto me lleva inmediatamente al tema crucial de nuestro debate que es la recomendación que nuestro Consejo haría a la próxima Conferencia de la FAO en torno al nivel presupuestario. Teniendo en cuenta el contexto actual y las auténticas preocupaciones extraordinarias que se han expresado aquí, este problema significa uno de los asuntos más difíciles a tratar en un resumen que el Presidente Independiente del Consejo haya hecho. Este asunto, ustedes lo saben, es decisivo, no sólo para el corto plazo, sino que podría tener implicaciones también de largo plazo.

Contribuye a hacer aún más difícil esta situación el hecho de que el incremento previsto de las cuotas incorporado en las propuestas del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que se presentan a este Consejo, se debe especialmente a dos causas totalmente diferentes.

Como se propone, un presupuesto de crecimiento cero con respecto al nivel de 663.1 millones de dólares de Estados Unidos, aprobado para el presente bienio, no hay ningún incremento neto del programa y el aumento del nivel del presupuesto habría dependido en circunstancias normales solamente a los aumentos previstos de los costos, dando lugar así a un presupuesto efectivo de trabajo de 704.2 millones de dólares de Estados Unidos; es decir un incremento limitado del 4.6 por ciento.

El impacto en las cuotas depende también de la estimación de los ingresos varios, y hay una pequeña diferencia aquí con la estimación hecha la última vez, pero prescindiré, en aras de la claridad, hacer referencia a ella.

La otra causa principal del aumento de las cuotas es, según lo propuesto por el Director General, el evitar la fórmula muy arriesgada de contar con algunos pagos de atrasos para contribuir a la financiación del presupuesto a fin de limitar las cuotas asignadas a los Estados Miembros. Se ha hecho esto dos veces para los programas de Labores y Presupuesto del bienio pasado y del presente. Nos hemos dado cuenta, lamentablemente, de los resultados indeseables, en términos de los déficits acumulados. Creo que hay, por tanto, un acuerdo total de que no debe recurrirse de nuevo a ello. No obstante, incluso si se entiende bien la diferencia entre las dos causas, sigue habiendo preocupación por el aumento de las cuotas, según se indica en el documento.

Los puntos de vista sobre las posibles soluciones para limitar dichas cuotas representan una gama bastante amplia. Se han expresado distintas opiniones con muchos matices, y los matices pueden ser, tal vez, tan importantes, como la esencia de las posiciones manifestadas por ustedes.

No obstante, distribuiría los deseos de los Miembros del Consejo -me atrevo a hacerlo en tres grupos fundamentales-. En el primer grupo es evidente que hay expectativas de una reducción drástica del nivel general, tanto del presupuesto como de las cuotas para 1996-97, con respecto a las propuestas en el resumen.

Estos pocos Estados Miembros señalan las presiones internas de sus países en relación con los presupuestos públicos, previsiones de las que, a su juicio, las organizaciones internacionales no deberían quedar inmunes. Se ha mencionado, incluso, algunas cifras que yo calificaría de extremas, que se han fijado como objetivo, aunque el mayor contribuyente aclaró al respecto que aún no hay una decisión definitiva de su Gobierno en ese sentido.

No tengo la intención, ni es mi función, la de interpretar las intervenciones; sin embargo, aún para las delegaciones que mantienen estas expectativas, creo que es indudable que la aplicación literal de las mismas implicaría rigurosos recortes en los programas establecidos de la Organización.

Otro grupo de países pidió que se hiciera todo lo posible para absorber algunos de los aumentos de las cuotas derivados de aumentos previstos en los costos y de los efectos del déficit de 38 millones de dólares en la financiación. También estos propugnan recortes en los programas, si bien, es evidente que en medida mucho menor a los del primer grupo. Reconocen que se necesitan sacrificios en aras de un realismo financiero y que sería preciso recortar programas y servicios menos prioritarios y lograr ahorros en la gestión y en reformas estructurales. Todo ello para permitir reducir costos al mínimo; pero, al mismo tiempo, reafirman también la importancia que atribuyen a la misión de la F AO e instan a que se mantenga en la mayor medida posible. Consideran políticamente inaceptable que el mayor contribuyente o, para el efecto, ningún Estado Miembro, fije de manera unilateral el presupuesto de la Organización, pero indican que mantener el principio de crecimiento real cero para el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto del próximo bienio, no es sostenible. Indicaron la necesidad de generar un nivel presupuestario que permita un gran consenso.

El tercer grupo, la gran mayoría, subraya que las propuestas implican ya sacrificios mediante el enfoque deliberado del crecimiento real cero en una época en que la Organización se halla en una fase delicada de transición hacia nuevos dispositivos estructurales para vigorizar su acción y se le presentan demandas acuciantes.

Consideran que el crecimiento real cero es un principio que no pueden descartar. Están dispuestos a buscar un cierto compromiso invitando a que se hagan esfuerzos para reducir las cuotas quizás mediante una ulterior reducción de aumentos de costos o, mediante ulteriores economías. No obstante indicaron que en retrospectiva el aumento anual del presupuesto estaba aún por debajo del crecimiento de la inflación en cualquier país. Sin

embargo, este grupo se haya claramente preocupado por los graves daños que se infligirían a los programas de la Organización y a la asistencia que prestan a los Estados Miembros en caso de que se vieran obligados a introducir drásticas reducciones en el nivel presupuestario.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, son éstas las posiciones básicas según las veo yo. También en este caso hubo muchos matices que me es imposible reflejar en un resumen. En conclusión, podría proponer lo siguiente. Indudablemente el Consejo desea facilitar el proceso de examen del documento completo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto en la próxima Conferencia. También es su deseo mantener la labor útil que realiza esta Organización al servicio de sus Estados Miembros. Por otra parte, no veo como nuestro Consejo puede conciliar estas posiciones en una única formulación o recomendación indicando cifras claras. Por ello, mi sugerencia es que nuestro informe refleje, en primer lugar, las posiciones tal como han sido expresadas; yo recomendaría en estos tres grupos.

El Consejo invitaría después a que continúe el diálogo entre los Estados Miembros y, entre ellos y la Secretaría. Esta ha tomado, por supuesto, debida nota de las intervenciones de todos ustedes y sus puntos de vista respecto a las prioridades y a aquéllas que no lo tienen.

A continuación el Consejo invitaría al Director General a que preparase el documento completo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el 1996-97, basándose en las recomendaciones de los Comités de Programas y de Finanzas y teniendo en cuenta las opiniones expresadas por el Consejo con vistas a llegar a un consenso en la aprobación del presupuesto por la Conferencia.

Finalmente, me queda decir que el Consejo insistió en su exhorto a que todos los países miembros, independientemente de su tamaño, abonen sus cuotas puntualmente a la Organización, tanto en lo que resta de este bienio como en el bienio que viene, sea cual sea el nivel presupuestario que la Conferencia decida adoptar. En ese sentido, distinguidos delegados, permítanme concluir con una reflexión final: la cuestión del apoyo a la tarea de FAO y su mandato y, a los cambios positivos que introduce el Director General, es incuestionable. Consecuentemente, será el reflejo de una voluntad política que es o que sea congruente, con lo que se declara.

Ustedes como Estados Miembros de FAO, reconocen, y lo han recordado aquí, sus obligaciones jurídicas incuestionables hacia esta Organización. Por tanto, y conforme a sus propias reglas y métodos de decisión, sea cual sea la decisión final de la Conferencia, ésta se convertirá, automáticamente, en una obligación para todos los Estados Miembros sin excepción.

Este Consejo espera que todos los Estados Miembros de FAO honren sus compromisos establecidos desde un principio y que estén a la altura de los dramáticos retos de una seguridad alimentaria mundial que sea sostenible y, del llamado de cientos de millones de seres humanos cuya sobrevivencia está en entredicho.

Es más efectivo, y con eso termino, en términos de costo, actuar por la vía del fomento a un desarrollo sostenible, la asistencia técnica a la inversión productiva, que hacerlo por la vía del recurso a la fuerza para aplastar las manifestaciones de la desesperanza.

Muchas gracias, con esto concluyo mi resumen. Desde luego, está en sus manos decidir en que forma desean expresarlo en su informe.

Hay una Delegación que me ha pedido hacer uso de la palabra que es Burkina Faso.

Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso): Je vous remercie du résumé que vous venez de faire. Je relève que avez préféré présenter les sentiments des délégations en trois groupes. Pour notre délégation, comme nous l'avons déjà dit dans notre déclaration, ce Conseil devrait parvenir à faire des recommandations claires adressées au Directeur général en l'invitant à poursuivre le travail qu'il a entrepris. Cela étant, nous aurions préféré que le résumé soit beaucoup plus positif parce qu'en réalité nous n'avons pas vu cette position structurelle au niveau des délégations qui ont pris la parole. Il existe toujours, bien entendu, des nuances d'interprétation, mais d'une manière générale il est possible de déceler les terrains d'entente et d'accord entre les membres du Conseil. Je voudrais personnellement me référer à trois éléments. Ce qui ne pose aucun problème d'interprétation c'est le fait que tout le monde s'est mis d'accord sur la question des arriérés, par

conséquent il n'y a pas de coupe à faire et le Conseil peut avoir une position unanime sur les avis échangés sur la question des arriérés.

Deuxièmement je pense qu'il y a eu également une identité de vues en ce qui concerne la base budgétaire à établir à l'exception bien entendu d'un petit nombre de délégations qui ont exprimé les difficultés qu'ils pourront avoir. Nous sommes tous d'accord sur le fait d'inviter le Directeur général à absorber le maximum des accroissements des coûts. Si l'on parvenait à concentrer les orientations sur un certain nombre de points et d'accords cela permettrait de résoudre les questions sur lesquelles nous serons invités à nous prononcer d'ici une prochaine session.

Je tiens à vous demander de bien vouloir faire un résumé plus constructif et plus dynamique qui aille dans le sens d'un rassemblement des efforts tel qu'il s'est exprimé au cours de cette session, et de donner des instructions claires au Secrétariat pour le travail qu'il doit entreprendre à l'avenir.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguido Delegado de Burkina Faso, a mi me hubiera encantado producir un resumen mucho más optimista y consensual, sin embargo, al escuchar los debates de ustedes no puedo hacer otra cosa, sino reflejar las distintas posiciones. Desde luego yo expresé el exhorto del Consejo a que todos los Estados Miembros paguen sus contribuciones puntualmente así como sus atrasos, pero, en relación al nivel presupuestario no tuve alternativas, sino reflejar lo que a mi juicio fueron tres posiciones distintas; las calificué, desde luego, conforme a grupos e indiqué en la última que se trataba de una gran mayoría. Pero está en sus manos, distinguidos delegados, producir el informe que ustedes estimen conveniente y quizás ofrecer aquí un mandato concreto al Director General o, una recomendación específica a la Conferencia, en este sentido.

También me ha pedido hacer uso de la palabra para un comentario ulterior, la distinguida Delegación de los Estados Unidos. Estados Unidos tiene la palabra.

Ms Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I hope to be very brief. First of all, I think that your summary is an excellent course on which to proceed. I would, however, suggest that we do not pre-judge the outcome given the fact that a number of delegations (and I cite as an example the spokesperson for the European Union) mentioned that they had some concern about placing the zero growth level at US\$673 million because they do not believe that the arrears should be added in, which I think means that there is some discussion on the basis of what constitutes zero growth rate. I believe that it is important not to pre-judge our dialogue. The Director-General has said that he wants to continue his open consultative process. I think that that is a very important element. Certainly my delegation and almost every delegation to whom I have spoken today, of which there are many on the floor, has said that they wish to continue the dialogue, and I think that this is the key thing we must do to come to a consensus conclusion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguida Delegación de Estados Unidos. Al referirme yo al nivel de 673.1, lo hacía en cuanto a la recomendación que hizo la reunión conjunta del Comité de Finanzas y de Programas, transmitida a este Consejo. La forma en que ustedes decidan ulteriormente aplicar el principio de crecimiento cero, es algo que les concierne; yo simplemente reflejo los hechos. También indiqué la posición del grupo de países y, proponía el descontar de dicho nivel 38 millones de dólares referidos a pagos de atrasos.

Distinguidos delegados, si ustedes no tienen ningún otro comentario, me voy a permitir hacer tres anuncios. El primero respecto de la Orden del Día, para el día lunes. El día lunes, les propongo que comencemos con el tratamiento del Tema 14 que es el examen del avance en la implantación de las medidas tomadas por el 106° período de sesiones del Consejo en virtud de las propuestas del señor Director General. El Tema 9, que se refiere al 11° Congreso Forestal Mundial, para 1997. El Tema 19, que es el informe del 64° período de sesiones de asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos y, luego por la tarde, el Tema 13: la preparación para el 28° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO y, por último, en la tarde, el Tema 11 - yo creo que tendremos tiempo para él -, que es sobre el Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

El tercer anuncio que deseo hacerles es en relación al Comité de Redacción que se reunirá, inmediatamente, al término de nuestros trabajos en la Sala México.

El tercer anuncio que tengo es en relación al Grupo Oficioso de trabajo que examinará la propuesta de declaración de Quebec. Este Grupo se reunirá mañana, a las 9.30 horas en la Sala Malasia.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, veo que la distinguida Delegación de Egipto tiene un último comentario. Le doy la palabra al distinguido Delegado de Egipto.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt): I do not intend to prolong matters, but my proposal is to postpone item 13 until Tuesday. We did not come to any agreement with regard to the Conference Officers, so I do not know what we are going to discuss.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguido Delegado de Egipto yo pienso sostener una reunión informal antes de tomar ese punto el día lunes. Quizás, si no llegamos a un acuerdo respecto de uno de los aspectos del Tema 13, podríamos, no obstante, tratar los otros y dejar inconcluso aquél al que no lleguemos a ninguna conclusión, para el día martes; pero, permítanme ustedes, por lo menos intentarlo.

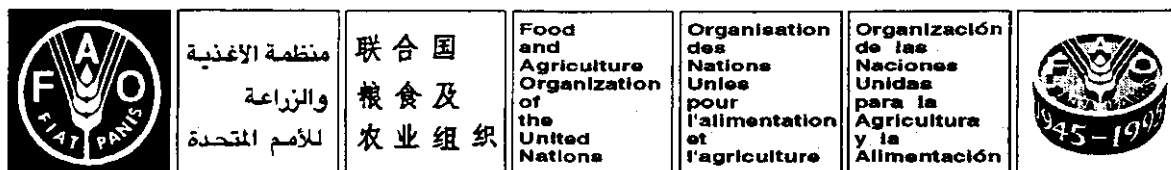
Distinguidos delegados, Señor Director General, muchas gracias y les auguro un buen fin de semana.

The meeting rose at 19.25 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 h 25.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.25 horas.

12 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108° período de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11ª SESION PLENARIA

12 June 1995

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00
 hours Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
 Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10
 heures sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
 Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 10.00
 horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
 Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días, señores delegados. Espero que hayan podido descansar el fin de semana, aparte de aquellos que trabajaron el sábado y que parecen llegaron a una conclusión positiva en sus trabajos.

Tenemos una agenda, quizá un poco complicada para el día de hoy. Les he de pedir disculpas por haber comenzado un poco tarde, pero se requería hacer unas consultas previas para proceder con los diversos puntos del orden del día.

Como ven ustedes, señores delegados, tenemos en primer lugar el Tema 14: Informe del Director General sobre la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 106° período de sesiones, que es para información.

Voy a pasar inmediatamente a este tema y a pedir al señor Hjort que lo introduzca.

PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

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

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

14. Director-General's Progress Report on Implementation of Decisions of the Council at its Hundred and Sixth Session

14. Rapport intérimaire du Directeur général sur l'application des décisions prises par le Conseil à sa cent sixième session

14. Informe del Director General sobre la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 106° período de sesiones

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, as you noted, the document before you, CL 108/21, the Director-General's Progress Report on Implementation of Decisions Taken by the Council at its 106th Session, is for information. The document covers all aspects of the decisions taken, including the Special Programmes, Headquarters Restructuring, Decentralization, Communications Infrastructures and new Cooperation Agreements.

As far as a more elaborate introduction to this item is concerned, I would call to your attention the Director-General's Statement which is CL 108/INF/5. Page 3 and most of page 4 of the English text refer to the implementation of decisions taken by the Council at its 106th Session last June. In view of that and in view of the fact that this is for information, I see no need to elaborate on what is before you, but simply to say that we stand ready to respond to any questions that you may have on any of the items covered in the document concerning restructuring.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias señor Hjort por la introducción al tema.

Consulto a los delegados sobre su interés de hacer uso de la palabra respecto de este tema para información.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): Mr Chairman, I would like to thank Mr Hjort for his introduction. We are very pleased to receive this report. We think that it is very appropriate and useful to members to have the Director-General provide these reports on a regular basis.

There are only a couple of points that I would like to make. I am not going to address all the matters contained in the report. My delegation reiterates the support that it has given to the two Special Programmes concerning food production in support of food security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries and the EMPRES scheme. As a member of the Programme Committee, we were pleased to see that FAO's ongoing food security work and the sub-programme 2.1.8.4 will continue. It was explained that that sub-programme addressed the broad concept of food security which, as stated at paragraph 2.17 of the Committee's April report, is essential for the success of the Special Programme at country level.

We note with interest the progress which has been made under the Special Programme on Food Security, particularly in relation to the exploratory missions to the thirteen countries listed. A couple of days ago, with others, we had the benefit of an update from the Director-General on the Special Programme and the exploratory missions. Australia has bilateral development assistance arrangements with a number of these countries which are not incompatible with the aims of FAO's Special Programme.

As mentioned in correspondence with the Director-General, while funding additional to that already allocated under Australia's development assistance programme is not available, there may be some scope for identifying areas of possible cooperation. We mention, in particular, Papua New Guinea where we have commenced a programme involving small-holder agriculture at the provincial and national levels which should contribute to food security. This programme's goals are to improve the productivity, stability and environmental sustainability of village agriculture through the provision of systematic, high-quality information.

In the case of EMPRES, we are pleased to see at paragraph 24 a recognition of the necessity to initiate work under that system on some other major epizootic diseases including foot-and-mouth disease.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, with regard to Agenda 14, on behalf of the Indonesian delegation I would like to express our appreciation of the Director-General's efforts in implementing all decisions of the Council at its 106th Session. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with the comprehensive document before us.

Mr Chairman, allow me now to make some observations on document CL 108/21 as follows. First, in the case of Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries, the Indonesian delegation fully supports the initiative of the Director-General in establishing an external oversight panel. Hopefully the result of this panel will strengthen support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries.

Secondly, regarding EMPRES, the Indonesian delegation welcomes and endorses the efforts made by the Director-General in establishing the EMPRES Steering Committee in January 1995 in order to guide the programme and review progress achieved. We very much appreciate the Steering Committee's decision to initiate three pilot project activities under the Regular Programme dealing with key aspects of Early Warning, early reaction and research, which will be implemented for three years' duration, having started in May 1995. In this connection, my delegation would also like to express its appreciation for the successful approaches made by the Director-General of FAO to some potential donors which have interest in a comprehensive EMPRES Programme.

Thirdly, with regard to Headquarters Restructuring, my delegation supports the decision made by the Director-General to appoint senior staff of the Organization, thus ensuring that our Organization works to full capacity in order to provide more services to the Member Nations.

Fourthly, in relation to Decentralization (Field Offices), the Indonesian delegation welcomes the initiative of the Director-General in relation to continued consultation with member nations of the five sub-regions in order to foster agreements with and among them on the possible location of the new offices, depending in particular on the offers made to provide facilities. The Indonesian delegation gives full support to the Director-General to finalize the consultation with the host government concerned.

Fifthly, dealing with the regional offices and country offices, my delegation would also like to support the efforts being made by the Director-General of FAO in strengthening the staffing pattern and the establishment of technical groups in order to provide more assistance to the member nations in the region, as well as the establishment of National Professional Offices at country office level. In this context, the Indonesian delegation requests FAO to finalize as soon as possible the gradual replacement of internationally recruited programme officers hitherto represented in FAO by the NPOs.

Sixthly, with regard to Communications Infrastructures, my delegation agrees in principle with the Director-General's proposal to develop the Communications Infrastructures project through new approaches by FAO in order to reduce the cost needed by greater emphasis on local procurement of equipment and technical assistance, as well as by reducing the scope of services to be provided during the initial period of operation.

Finally, Mr Chairman, regarding the new Cooperation Agreements as stated in paragraphs 48-56 of the document CL 108/21, since the beginning the Indonesian delegation gives full support to this initiative and the Indonesian Minister of Agriculture has signed the TCDC Agreement with the Director-General of FAO. For the implementation of this TCDC Agreement, the Indonesian Government has submitted to FAO a list of its national experts, totalling about 75 persons, to be selected and used by other member countries in the region or in other regions. At the present time, the Indonesian Government also is considering to use the national experts from other member countries in the region or from other regions.

Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy): Thank you Mr Chairman. We would like first of all to thank the Director-General of FAO for having submitted to this Council document CL 108/21 concerning the second Progress Report on the Implementation of the Decisions taken by the Council at its 106th Session.

Referring to paragraphs 3-13 of this document, we would like to make some comments about the Special Programme for food production in support of food security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. As stated during previous interventions at the 106th and 107th Sessions of the Council, a sustainable increase in food production and productivity is an essential medium-term activity leading to food security, thus, recognizing the relevance of the Special Programme for increased food production. Today, we only want to recall some of our comments, although we are aware that the Secretariat is analysing the reactions received so far from member countries and that issues raised are being addressed.

For the purpose of having an integrated and meaningful approach to food security, we believe that the moment is still appropriate to provide an analysis of the status of the various food security-related programmes implemented by FAO, such as Early Warning, Post-Harvest Food Losses, Seed Multiplication, etc. This would allow to better relate the Special Programme to the past work of the Organization. An analysis of past efforts at the international level would also provide a useful background for the Special Programme.

In order to seek efficient and balanced approaches to food security, two dimensions of the problem must be considered: the national level and the household level. In fact, an improved food availability at the country level does not imply an increased food security for the household. As we all know, vulnerable individuals or groups may not have access to increased production even in net food exporter developing countries.

We have taken note that in designing programmes for increased food production, due attention will be paid to such issues as the food population nexus, the macroeconomic conditions, international trade, equity considerations, land tenure, etc. We will therefore consider in this light the country project proposals the moment they are made available.

The focus of the Special Programme on the high potential areas can be supported. However, in order to reduce the incidence of rapid rural-urban migration, associated with food security situations, it is necessary to pay equal attention to low potential areas, where a large number of food insecure households are located. In other words, we would like to be convinced that concentrating on high potential areas will decrease the pressure on marginal lands instead of increasing the migratory flows from these areas to urban settlements.

Another important aspect to be considered is the choice of the methodology for the implementation of the programmes. Farming Systems analysis and truly participatory methods should be the main tools to carry out the projects. We notice that FAO stresses the importance of a "down-top" approach to stimulate local agricultural communities in participating in the rural development efforts. However, we would like to caution against too rapid sequences of events. In other words, the danger is that, because of need for rapid results, inadequate attention is given to the participatory approach, therefore moving too fast into new activities aimed at "explaining" new or adaptive technologies. This would mean going back to past "top-down" experiences. Real participation is a long process involving cultural change in farmer's behaviour. On this subject a more knowledgeable judgement on our part can be made the moment concrete country proposals are available.

Italy is considering the possibility that some projects under the FAO/Italy Government Cooperative Programme be reoriented to provide support to selected activities, such as participatory rural appraisals, foreseen in the Pilot Programmes.

As a conclusion, we believe that FAO should make it clear that the Organization is not proposing to address the problem of food security alone but, rather, that in accordance with its mandate it is trying to play a catalytic role. For this reason, at least the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- as mentioned earlier FAO should provide an analysis of past experiences in food security. Valuable technical expertise has been accumulated in the Organization throughout its life;
- although concentrating its limited resources on food production, the Organization must show that its analysis keeps in due account all the dimensions of the food security problems. This would be in line with the strengthened "normative" role;
- effective coordination with bilateral and multilateral agencies should be sought. In this connection, the possibility could be explored to launch a pilot project under the Special Programme also involving IFAD and WFP. The cooperation between the three agencies related to food and agriculture is a subject to which the Government of Italy traditionally attaches great importance.

Furthermore, referring to paragraph 29 of document CL 108/21, the Italian delegation would like to make a brief comment on another particular issue which is of concern to the Government of Italy as a contributor to the Trust Fund programme, namely, the timely implementation of Field Projects.

We have noted that delays in the recruitment of staff affect not only the Regular Programme but also the Field Projects. We are aware of the difficulties deriving from the current transition phase, and we agree with the Director-General who has clarified, after the debate on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97, that these delays are caused by the lack of resources and by the time required for identifying experts and projects. However, we have noticed delays in the recruitment of project staff due to a procedure as yet not sufficiently streamlined. Decisions to appoint experts still need lengthy procedures and we would like to see a more decentralized approach with FAO. Technical and operational divisions should be given more responsibility and, obviously, accountability for technical decisions on the recruitment of personnel.

Ms Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): The United States has carefully reviewed the Director-General's statement and the additional documentation on progress to date on decisions of the 106th Council. The Director-General has unquestionably moved ahead on implementation and much as been achieved. We applaud the energy and determination that has gone into this effort. That said, given the budgetary constraints that are likely to impact on future FAO programmes, the Organization will have to weigh carefully the costs involved in the scale of the decentralization now under way.

With the prospect of five new Sub-regional Offices, increased staffing in existing Regional Offices and a potential expansion of the National Professional Officers Programme in country offices, it is not easy to see where overall savings will result and where significant downsizing will occur. We supported decentralization because we believed it would streamline operations and provide savings, but the current direction of the plan appears to expand FAO field operations without much consolidation or reduction in overall staff. Moreover, we understand that Regional Offices cannot employ locally hired professionals and wonders if this raises costs unnecessarily.

In our view, the new decentralized regional and sub-regional structures will be most cost-effective if the number of single country offices is reduced, eliminating the potential for overlap and duplication. Other agencies have found multifunctional teaming is best serviced by these approaches and country-specific issues can be handled with the cooperation of the UNDP resident representative.

We believe some consolidation should accompany this decentralization plan. We would also welcome estimates of the short-term costs involved in putting the new structure in place as well as estimates of the recurring costs once the structures are operational.

The United States has long advocated rationalization of FAO's field structure. Given resource constraints, however, it is important that we proceed carefully making maximum use of the new mix of resources and staff we are putting in place. It is also important in implementing the National Professional Officers Programme that we have clear criteria for these staff. Here again, staff imposes a potential recurrent cost on the Organization. FAO should evaluate the existing recruitment procedures in this programme to ensure the quality and objectivity of the Organization's staff are maintained.

Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom): We are very grateful to the Director-General for his Report. It is very helpful to have a statement letting us know where we stand on various initiatives. We are also grateful for meeting last week where my delegation was involved in discussions on the Special Programmes on food security and therefore I shall confine my remarks in this statement to just three areas. One is decentralization and the use of National Programme Officers, the second is Headquarters restructuring and the third is EMPRES.

My delegation gave full support and continues to give full support of the Director-General in his efforts to decentralize and restructure FAO. However, this Report does still show a very strong centralist approach. We are fully aware that these things do not change overnight and it takes time but you must have the right structure in place to get the right results.

Turning to National Programme Officers some delegations at the 106th and 107th Council sessions raised concern over the recruitment procedures for National Programme Officers and I do not blush to raise this concern yet again. We do feel that there is a too heavily centralist approach to recruitment and we would like to get some commitment from the Secretariat that they will simplify recruitment procedures and move more rapidly towards localizing recruitment procedures for NPOs. Whilst on that same subject, we note from paragraph 42 and 43 that National Programme Officers are being employed in addition to International Programme Officers. Now whilst we are aware that the use of National Programme Officers was not primarily aimed at cost savings but at reaching greater efficiency and more appropriateness we, nonetheless, would expect some efficiency savings to accrue from this exercise.

It would be helpful for us to have some figures on how many Programme Officers are actually being redeployed and replaced by National Programme Officers and, secondly, whether they are all to be redeployed. In consequence of that question, we want to know what, if any, savings will accrue to this exercise.

On Headquarters restructuring, we are surprised to learn that the Working Levels Establishments Committee and the Policy Levels Establishments Committee have had 24 meetings to review functional statements on all organizational units. Again, this seems to us a heavily bureaucratic approach to this kind of exercise. Nowadays we all work in systems where the setting of personnel and departmental objectives are drafted by the departments concerned in line with the overall institutional objectives of the Organization. There seems to be a serious lack of delegated authority within FAO. Whilst on that subject, it would be interesting to know exactly what authority will be delegated to the Management Support Units as set out in paragraph 27. Indeed, it would be interesting to know why such units are needed and what functions they will actually be carrying out. Nowadays in any organization line management carries its own responsibilities for personnel management, budgetary oversight, training and welfare functions. We would like to know why it is necessary to have management support units taking on these functions, if indeed that is what they are going to do, in FAO.

Finally, turning to EMPRES, we would welcome further details on the new initiatives described in paragraph 17 that have been initiated before completion of the studies on the economic significance of Desert Locust described in paragraph 15. Finally on EMPRES, we note the progress reported on rinderpest and we stress the need for effective coordination with others to be continued and further developed. We would caution against the inclusion of other areas of work in this programme as described in paragraph 24 without similar cooperative arrangements being fully put in place.

Mirza Tasadduq HUSSAIN BEG (Bangladesh): The Director-General has presented another progress report on the implementation of the Council decisions taken at the 106th Session. We are pleased to note that substantial progress has been made since the 107th Session in the complex exercise embracing the programmes, structures and policies of the Organization. We note with satisfaction the work of the exploratory missions to date as well as the actions initiated so far in the formulation of country activities under the Special Programme on Food Production in support of food security in LIFDCs. We are also happy to be informed that the first of the pilot projects has already started in Kenya and that similar projects will be implemented this year in the remaining 13 participating countries in the first group. In this connection, we would like to reiterate the critical importance of full participation of farmers in the project activities in order to ensure the success of the Programme.

Some complete steps have been taken by the Director-General in revising the organizational structure, including appointments to senior positions and administrative arrangements to streamline and improve management practices. We welcome his efforts in this direction and urge him to accelerate the whole process to the extent possible within the limitations of a stringent budget. A fully functional, revised structure, with the necessary redeployment of staff within the new structure, will significantly contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. Decentralization of technical human resources from Headquarters to the field would have a significant positive effect on sustainable agricultural development. We are therefore pleased to note further progress in strengthening Regional Offices and the selection of new Sub-Regional Offices. We are particularly happy to note the actions initiated by the Director-General to strengthen FAO's country offices, including the establishment of the National Professional Officer category. At the 106th Council Session we strongly supported the Director-General's policy of increased use of national expertise and appreciate the concrete steps that have been taken in this regard. Increased use of national expertise would not only strengthen national capacities but would be cost-effective as well. The appointment of national correspondents in countries with no resident FAO representative is a good step, which should further the process of national capacity building.

In regard to the development of the communications infrastructure project to support the decentralization process in the regional, sub-regional and country offices we commend the Director-General for keeping the cost within the original budget of US\$3 million. Further avenues to reduce costs may be explored wherever feasible, with particular emphasis on the local procurement of equipment and services. We are also pleased to note that a good number of cooperation agreements, particularly under TCDC have been signed between FAO and Member Nations. We hope that the process will be further intensified in the coming months.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): We welcome the Director-General's report to keep us informed of the latest developments in the implementation of the programme we all approved in the 106th Session of the Council. Allow me to focus here on a number of programmes which my country accord a high importance. First, food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries, which is the first programme I would like to point to. We commend the Secretariat for the efforts it has made to accelerate the implementation of this programme within the limited resources available in the regular budget. We welcome FAO's cooperation with the international financial institutions with a view to engaging them in the financing of the programme. However, we call upon donor countries to contribute effectively to the financing of the implementation of this programme, which acquires a very high importance for the less developed countries looking to secure their food security.

As to EMPRES, we suffer from the damage caused by these pests, in particular, the Desert Locust in Africa and the Near East, as well as rinderpest, and we are happy to see the concrete steps which have been taken to implement the programme. We express the hope that finance will be made available to expand this programme to include other plant and animal pests which are extremely dangerous.

We have taken note with satisfaction of the progress made to restructure the organization and in particular in the implementation of the decentralization process by the redeployment of whole teams of experts from Headquarters to the field so that they will be closer to where they are needed. We also commend the use of national and local experts as executing agencies of FAO's programmes in their countries, a step which leads to large economies in the administration and management of the Organization. We were happy to learn from the Director-General and the officials of the Secretariat that the competence of the local experts nominated for such posts is very high as compared with the international programme officers carrying out the functions nowadays, which was completely unexpected. Of course, this is quite normal because they are much better informed of the problems of their countries than other international experts and thus more qualified to implement them.

Alan AMEY (Canada): Le Canada note avec intérêt les progrès réalisés dans la mise en oeuvre des décisions prises à la cent-sixième session du Conseil de la FAO.

En juin 1994, nous nous disions optimistes face aux progrès en cours dans les domaines où nous demandions depuis longtemps des changements, notamment aux chapitres de la transparence, de la restructuration des nouveaux programmes et du resserrement des liens avec les autres organisations des Nations Unies. Je demeure essentiellement optimiste face à ces changements.

We were pleased to give support for the Special Action Programme for Food Security and recognize the work that has been done by FAO to produce initial surveys in a number of target countries.

We also recognize that the main objective of this Special Action Programme is to help food-deficit countries to increase rapidly their food production and productivity, which is ultimately the responsibility of each government. However, these are initial steps and to move forward from the pilot phase in the longer term, as the Director-General has explained, external assistance will be required from multilateral and bilateral development aid institutions. This relates closely to the Director-General's emphasis on enhanced partnerships and constitutes a significant challenge for FAO in working interactively to help LIFDCs to realize this pilot and subsequent phases of the Special Action Programme. We would like to associate ourselves with the views expressed by the distinguished delegate of Italy on the Special Action Programme.

Nous sommes heureux de constater que la restructuration de l'Organisation a beaucoup progressé et que le nouveau personnel est entré en fonction.

Quant aux propositions sur les divisions conjointes avec la CENEI, nous souscrivons à l'approche prise au Comité de l'agriculture.

Pour ce qui est des moyens de communication, nous appuyons pleinement les mesures qui nous ont permis des échanges beaucoup plus intensifs avec notre personnel à Ottawa.

Nous appuyons également les nouvelles ententes de coopération qui devraient se traduire par la plus grande latitude dans l'utilisation du personnel.

Le Canada a été le premier à signer un protocole d'entente sur les universités et les institutions de recherche, et nous favorisons le recours accru à de telles ententes.

Nous aimerions voir s'accélérer le rythme de changement à l'avenir; nous souhaitons des structures moins hiérarchiques et une rationalisation des procédures administratives. Des mécanismes plus efficaces d'établissement des priorités et d'exécution permettront à la FAO de réaliser des gains de productivité, de s'adapter et de répondre aux besoins futurs.

Etant donné que le Gouvernement canadien, à l'instar de la FAO elle-même, cherche à se redéfinir, nous nous joignons à vous dans cette mission.

Enfin, les changements approuvés à la cent-sixième session du Conseil ne devraient pas être perçus comme la fin l'un processus mais plutôt comme un début de processus continu de réflexion, de perfectionnement et de renouveau.

Frederick D. KIRUMIRA (Uganda): Mr Chairman, thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our views on this very important Agenda item.

At the outset, Uganda would like to thank the Director-General for the concise and clear progress report he has presented to the Council. Our intervention is going to be relatively short and we shall limit our discussion on two issues, namely the Special Programmes and the new Cooperation Agreements which were sent out to Member Nations recently.

Since their inception, our delegation has strongly supported the Special Programmes, namely on food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) and the Emergency Prevention Systems (EMPRES) for transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases. We are pleased with the progress so far made. We would like to underscore the importance of the participatory approaches used in this Programme involving farmers, research scientists, extension workers, NGOs and others. We wish to

advise that local knowledge and use of traditional food crops should always be given attention. Paragraph 10 of document CL 108/21 indicates that a second group of countries is being considered for participation in the Programme. Uganda would welcome being considered for participation in the second phase.

Mr Chairman, we are happy to note that subject to availability of resources the scope of EMPRES could be widened to include other transboundary pests like the African Armyworm. Needless to say, this pest causes much destruction to most of the cereals, particularly finger-millet, maize and sorghum grown in Eastern and Southern Africa and therefore needs control. Without taking the risk of making the list of pests very long, we hope there will come a time when the destructive bird of cereals in Sudan, Northern Uganda and Kenya known as the Sudan Dioc (*Quelea quelea ethiopica*), will be addressed by EMPRES.

With regard to animal diseases, we are pleased with the efforts FAO has taken in marshalling resources and coordinating activities related to the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme. As you have noted in paragraph 22, Mr Chairman, bovine pleuro-pneumonia is the most serious disease in Central Eastern Africa where my country is located. We hope emergency support will continue to be given by FAO to assist farmers in that sub-region.

Uganda supports the proposal by the Director-General to initiate surveillance, early warning systems and emergency preparedness activities for some other major epizootic diseases listed in paragraph 24. Before concluding our remarks on the Special Programmes, we would like to appeal to the donor community to make available adequate resources to the programmes since much of the resources are extra-budgetary.

Mr Chairman, we attach much importance to the Programme Cooperation among Developing Countries (PCDC). The Uganda government has signed the agreement on the use of experts for TCDC and it has forwarded to FAO particulars of experts who will be involved in the programme. We look forward to effective participation.

In addition to what I have said I have brought a country statement from the Honourable Minister of State and acting Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries which I would request be inserted in the Verbatim Records on Agenda Item 5.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguido Delegado de Uganda, por el anuncio de que incluirá usted un mensaje del Señor Ministro en el contexto del Tema 5. La Secretaría ha tomado nota y una vez que recibamos el texto se incluirá en el verbatim.

Mrs Elena SUETT-ASKERSTAM (Estonia): I should briefly like to address two points in document CL 108/21. First of all, I wish to say that my government is pleased with the progress being made for the establishment of the sub-regional office in the Central and Eastern European Region. We look forward to important results from the establishment of this office in terms of sub-regional networking and exchange of information in those technical and research areas which are particularly relevant to the CIT countries at this particular point in time.

Secondly, I should like to refer to the agreement for the use of experts for technical cooperation among countries in transition, the TCCT Programme, which my country has adhered to. I regret to say, Mr Chairman, that in spite of efforts on our part Estonia has seen no results in response on the part of the Organization. It is my country's hope that this situation will be resolved in the near future.

Mrs Mária KADLECEKOVÁ (Slovakia): On behalf of the Slovak Republic let me deliver to you an official stand-point on the Progress Report on the Implementation of Decisions taken by the Council at its 106th Session.

Firstly, it should be noted that the document is prepared comprehensively, with high visibility, with regard to the implementation of the conceptual and operational activities. In the ties to the two special programmes, it is reasonable to state that during one year there was a tremendous amount of work achieved by FAO Headquarters in the field. The decision to involve countries in the implementation process by identifying their

commitments, activities and responsibilities is rational. Through this approach, Mr Chairman, higher responsibility for the implementation of FAO's Special Programmes can be attained. In this connection let me record that numerous Central and Eastern European countries have well qualified experts and progressively equipped institutions orientated to the similar activities which are required for such items as Food Production in support of Food Security as well as for EMPRES.

In the field of water management, crop production and veterinary science in the sub-region many well known research and educational institutions operate. Production of water equipment and small farm mechanization is at an advanced level and we can offer competitive conditions. The Central and Eastern European countries are convinced that FAO's Steering Committee and other bodies established for both Special Programmes will create possibilities of real involvement in the greater interests of the Organization.

It should be appreciated that in spite of the typical difficulties for all organizations on restructuring, for all transitional stages, FAO's professional staff have a high responsibility and the reasonable optimism meets the interests of my government. It tries to provide us with relevant services and activities. We wish to express our thanks to the Director-General for his efforts in the very complicated issues and challenges in the food and agricultural field. We are convinced that his personal efforts are at a high level.

Mr Chairman, I ask this honourable forum for understanding on a particular issue. Paragraphs 29 and 30 deal with recruitment of staff. They provide us with rational reasons for the incomplete professional state within the Organization. Recruitment, particularly for professional staff as well as for consultants, represents for countries from our sub-region a more than painful feature of participation in the Organization. How many times on this ground and in the many other fora was it reiterated that human resources from Central and Eastern European countries have attained a high level?

At the same time, one year ago, with the launching of the FAO restructuring, the Director-General addressed a more than promising letter to under-represented governments concerning the recruitment of staff. Many vacancy announcements for posts were attached to the letter at that time. With high responsibility, the Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs completed a list of experts and forwarded them to the Director-General. We believe the Director-General had the best of intentions. From sixteen countries there are six under-represented and eight countries unrepresented. A great deal of work was undertaken by Permanent Representatives on the intervention of the government but without fruitful results.

It is more than frustrating to be a witness of this situation that, in spite of the advanced human resources in the field of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, employment of people from the sub-region within the Organization is practically impossible. In the positive cases there has been offered for our experts the post level of P-2. From our government's point of view it is desirable that there be the involvement of experts and consultants in the short-term operational programme.

Under conditions where FAO supports the development of the food and agriculture sector, Mr Chairman, this is very modest due to FAO's budget which is confronted with many obstacles. There is acknowledgement by the Central and Eastern European countries that recruitment of their high level professional staff can represent for governments a reasonable incentive to actually participate in the Organization. The aforesaid is made without intention to criticize but to share with the FAO Council a most sensitive crucial problem.

Mr Chairman, the Government of the Slovak Republic is involved in the TCCT agreement and we intend to sign the agreement on National Retired Experts as well. Concerning Use of Experts for Technical Cooperation among the countries in transition, we associate ourselves with Estonia's intervention. However, we are eager and looking forward to other agreements with the Organization concerning academic and research institutions.

Salah HAMDİ (Tunisie): Le document que nous sommes en train d'examiner relate les progrès réalisés depuis la 106ème session du Conseil qui a pris des décisions portant sur les programmes spéciaux et sur la restructuration de l'Organisation. La mise en oeuvre de ces décisions en est encore à ses débuts mais les progrès réalisés méritent notre soutien et notre appui. Nous considérons que malgré les difficultés du départ, l'Organisation est sur la bonne voie pour la mise en oeuvre de ces décisions.

Evidemment, nous pouvons demander des informations supplémentaires, nous pouvons demander des explications sur le processus de mise en oeuvre, mais je crois que l'essentiel est que nous renouvelions notre appui général au programme que nous avons arrêté nous-mêmes au sein du Conseil lors de sa 106ème session.

Dans ce cadre, ma délégation aimerait apporter sa contribution quant au soutien aux efforts entrepris par l'Organisation dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de ces décisions, particulièrement au niveau de deux programmes spéciaux.

Je voudrais mettre l'accent sur certains aspects concernant le programme EMPRES en particulier pour souligner l'importance accordée aux programmes de lutte contre les maladies animales, nous sommes d'accord pour une extension éventuelle à d'autres maladies qui ne sont pas couvertes par la version initiale, mais aussi pour la lutte contre les ravageurs. Là également, outre la couverture du plus grand nombre possible de ravageurs, je mettrais l'accent sur la question du criquet pèlerin, question combien importante et qui préoccupe de nombreuses régions du monde, en particulier la région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et la sous-région du Nord Ouest de l'Afrique. En effet, au cours de ces derniers mois les mouvements se multiplient dans cette sous-région et la question devient plus que préoccupante. Le Conseil sait peut-être que dans la région du Nord Ouest africain nous avons constitué une force maghrébine d'intervention avec l'assistance et l'appui de la FAO et des pays donateurs. Nous voudrions attirer l'attention sur l'importance de la lutte dans cette région, en particulier de la lutte préventive qui prépare la lutte curative.

Toujours dans ce cadre, je voudrais insister sur la collaboration avec les institutions financières pour le financement de ce programme important, et je voudrais remercier les donateurs pour les efforts qu'ils ont déployés jusqu'à maintenant en les exhortant à poursuivre leur soutien à ce programme combien important pour la conservation des récoltes, et par conséquent pour la préservation de la production agricole dans les pays concernés.

Le deuxième volet de mon intervention concerne la réforme structurelle et la décentralisation. Je voudrais là aussi exprimer l'appui total de mon Gouvernement à toutes les actions qui ont été engagées jusqu'ici par le Directeur général en matière de réforme structurelle, en insistant sur la nécessité de veiller au renforcement des activités de terrain, en améliorant l'encadrement des bureaux régionaux et en les renforçant par de nouveaux experts recrutés essentiellement au niveau national. Nous apportons évidemment notre soutien à la création des bureaux sous-régionaux, dans le cadre du renforcement de la décentralisation des activités de l'Organisation et du renforcement des activités de terrain.

Je voudrais signaler également les accords CTPD et les accords d'utilisation des experts à la retraite promus par le Directeur général. Nous attendons la mise en oeuvre de ces accords et nous sommes persuadés qu'ils contribueront à l'amélioration des activités de terrain, dans la mesure où nous, pays en développement, disposons d'un nombre suffisant d'experts qualifiés permettant d'assurer leur mission dans le cadre des activités qui leur sont confiées par l'Organisation.

Ricardo LEON-VALDES (Chile): En primer término, Señor Presidente, mi delegación quisiera reconocer los esfuerzos desplegados para revitalizar la Organización, para adecuarla a los desafíos en el contexto inmediato y al más largo plazo. Al mismo tiempo aprovechamos la oportunidad para ratificar nuestro compromiso de contribuir en este importante y complejo proceso.

En este contexto nuestra Delegación manifiesta su apoyo al Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria que ayudará a muchos países deficitarios de alimentos a aumentar su eficacia en la producción con su consecuente impacto en la población en largo plazo. Del mismo modo reconoce los esfuerzos de descentralización que se han manifestado en el fortalecimiento de las oficinas regionales, cuyo objetivo es el de servir como medio principal de cooperación regional entre los Estados Miembros, teniendo en cuenta la necesidad de cooperar con otras organizaciones.

En este sentido resulta de interés por su dinámica y características propias el instituir oficinas subregionales que permitan descentralizar aún más las actividades operativas de la Organización. A este respecto resulta de interés señalar que la actividad operativa que por lógica tiene características propias, debería estar cada vez más dirigida y supervisada por unidades descentralizadas localizadas en las regiones, subregiones y Estados

Miembros en que resulte imprescindible utilizar al máximo las capacidades locales con núcleos especialistas de las propias regiones. Otro aspecto que cabe en este llamado a la reflexión y análisis es el que se refiere a la asistencia técnica que otorga la FAO respecto a proyectos.

Estimamos también que las instancias funcionales del trabajo de la FAO, normativa y operativa, deben conservar su justa dimensión teniendo en cuenta su dinámica y sus lógicas interrelaciones. En este aspecto reafirmamos como recomendable que la Organización enriquezca su enfoque de asistencia a través de proyectos por uno de carácter programático que sea coherente con los requerimientos de los países en las materias más prioritarias, es decir, agropecuaria, forestal y pesquera.

Saleh Sadiq OSMAN (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving my delegation the floor. We thank the Secretariat for preparing this comprehensive document under discussion. Although the document is for information, we find it necessary to take the floor to thank FAO for its assistance to Tanzania to combat animal diseases.

At the beginning of this year, Tanzania experienced an outbreak of bovine pleural pneumonia, CBPP, in Central and Southern Tanzania. The disease is believed to have come into the country through movement of cattle into the country by refugees. Tanzania took necessary steps to inform FAO and requested assistance to combat this serious disease, which has already killed more than 1 500 cattle in these areas and was threatening many more all over the country. As explained in paragraph 22 of the document, FAO gave a rapid response and assistance - in terms of expertise, vaccines, and materials - within two weeks and sent it to areas concerned. The situation was analysed by EMPRES staff and consultants, and support is being provided through TCP.

As the disease still threatens livestock not only in Tanzania but also in neighbouring countries of Zambia, Malawi, Kenya and Uganda, we wish to join FAO in alerting the international donor community for assistance and support. Once again, Mr Chairman, we express appreciation, Tanzania, to FAO Director-General for his rapid response, and we fully support his efforts.

LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese): Thank you, Mr Chairman, I will try to be brief. We highly commend the Director-General and the Secretariat for the report provided to us. The Chinese Government gives full support to the special programme put forward by the Director-General, which is geared for food production in support of food security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries.

The main purpose for this programme is to help the low-income and food-deficit countries to promote their food production and promote their food security and enhance the status of malnutrition, and also efforts will be made to increase food supply and food distribution. This is an important issue facing the international community. Without solving this problem, food security, social stability, and world economic development will be seriously affected. Therefore, we have to see the special programme is being implemented. We hope the international community and the Member Nations with ability, and also the potential donors, will give full support to this special programme.

In addition, with regard to the restructuring of FAO, the Chinese Government commends the Director-General's efforts in streamlining the Organization, making savings, and raising efficiency. We also fully understand the difficulties faced by FAO in finance and also the problems encountered in restructuring. In the short term the financial situation will not be changed completely. Therefore, we believe FAO can only follow the Director-General's proposal, which is to make FAO a leaner Organization and make great efforts to reform the Organization and reduce cost and publications. This is an important approach for FAO to overcome the present difficulties and to face the challenges.

With regard to decentralization, we also commend the approach which is to enhance the field offices and sub-regional offices. We believe some authorities can be considered to be moved to the regional offices or to country representations. In doing so it is conducive to the implementation of the approval of projects and the making of savings and also better utilization of local experts. The procurement of equipment can also be shifted to the country concerned or to the country representation.

As for the recruitment of National Professional Officers who work in the FAO representation, we also support the Director-General's decision. We hope FAO will speed up this process. At the same time the proposals put forward by the government and the representation should also be respected because the representatives in these countries and the governments have a good understanding of the operational activities and also the competence of the personnel. We hope FAO will take a full consideration of this.

Finally, with regard to TCDC, the Chinese Government has signed an agreement with FAO. We have also provided a long list of experts; we are willing to provide more experts to give service and also, in areas where competent, we would like to provide training and the technologies to other developing countries. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Atul SINHA (India): Mr Chairman, we have noted the information contained in document CL 108/21. We are very much encouraged by the responses of the Director-General and the Organization to the decisions taken in the last session of the Council. We support, as we have done in the past, the initiatives taken in this regard, particularly in respect of the Special Programme for Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries and EMPRES which have a lot of relevance for the developing countries.

Without going into very great detail, I would like to pinpoint my observations in respect of the two major issues with which we are all concerned, particularly since they relate to the cutting of costs. These relate to decentralization and particularly the TCDC Programme and the Programme of National Professional Officers.

In respect of TCDC, you are aware that India was the first country to sign this document. Therefore, we have a very great interest in seeing this initiative succeed in the shortest possible time. We feel that the initiatives which have been taken so far are steps in the right direction. A lot of work has been done. Most of the countries which could provide technical expertise have given their names after due scrutiny and these have been received in FAO. I understand they are already in the computer and that technical comments are already being sought.

I feel that since no actual expert has still been deputed to any of the countries under the TCDC agreement, there are some problems somewhere. I also have some fear that the number of projects which should by now have come up from various countries are still not coming up, and that is perhaps why the list of these experts has not been utilized. This is having a deleterious effect on those countries which have provided a large number of names and yet are not able to provide the outlets for those experts.

I would therefore like to suggest that a brief one-day meeting of the Permanent Representatives of FAO could be convened by the Secretariat at which we could discuss the nuts and bolts of the whole story, where we are exactly, whether any experts have actually been posted in the field and, if not, what the real bottlenecks are and in what way the Permanent Representatives here in Rome can help the Organization by contacting our own governments and perhaps asking them about certain things which the FAO wants to get done.

The implementation document which is before us, is, of course, too brief a document to list all those matters, but I feel that a one-day Conference or a Workshop or a Working Group could be a very good outlet for discussing these nuts and bolts problems with the Secretariat. I think that this would help to get very many projects off the ground. Unless some experts really start to work in the field, this project would perhaps suffer some loss of face. I therefore feel that this is one initiative which could be considered by the Secretariat.

We also feel that, in line with the Director-General's initiative about decentralization, it might be a good idea to give powers to the FAO Representatives in various countries to tap on the approved list of officers and experts and then utilize them straight away for the projects. If we centralize things too much, I am afraid that problems are going to occur, so we would like to see a lot more power to the Field Representatives of FAO to get this programme off the ground.

The last point that I want to make is in respect of the National Professional Officers. Here too the situation is the same. Names have been provided by various countries after detailed scrutiny, but I do not know how many of these have been appointed or how many have started functioning. It seems that here there are also some teething troubles. I personally would like to see a lot more emphasis placed on this because these are all

steps which go to reduce costs and therefore should have the utmost priority. Once again we would be very happy to discuss the nuts and bolts part of this and the actual problems in the field in the sort of one-day conference that I was suggesting. I would be very happy on behalf of India to participate in that, as I am sure would a lot of other Permanent Representatives.

Frederick D. KIRUMIRA (Uganda): Mr Chairman, we are sorry to have to take the floor once again. This is because we would like to announce that our Government attaches great importance to the Organization, and in that respect I have the honour to present to the Organization a contribution of US\$28 000.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido Delegado de Uganda. ¿Hay alguna otra Delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? En ese caso, le pregunto a los observadores si desean hacer algún comentario.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Observer for the Netherlands): Mr Chairman, my broken microphone is a clear sign to be brief and I will not ignore this message! I have only two points to make.

First, in relation to decentralization, the Netherlands support decentralization, provided they improve cost efficiency and quality of activities. This decentralization should be accompanied by good local coordination of activities between FAO, other UN organizations and donor countries under the guidance of the countries concerned. In our view, this should all go together with the delegation of responsibilities, including financial ones. Unfortunately, the document is lacking information regarding this matter.

My second point concerns the new Sustainable Development Department. This Department should "work on issues related to social, economic, technical and environmental aspects related to sustainable development and integrate these issues into a global perspective as a contribution to the operation of sustainable development". My delegation would like to know how FAO will integrate these aspects into the mainstream of its activities.

Robert SAGNA (Observateur du Sénégal): Je souhaite réitérer l'appui que le Ministre de l'agriculture a déjà donné aux efforts déployés dans le domaine de la décentralisation et de la rationalisation qui permettent de dégager ainsi des économies et de rendre notre Organisation commune plus efficace. Nous appuyons également très fortement les deux programmes spéciaux, tout d'abord le programme de production vivrière à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier. Je crois que votre Conseil l'avait déjà adopté en tant que priorité lors de sa cent sixième session et je crois que le problème ne se pose plus sur ce plan-là sinon au niveau de l'application elle-même.

J'aimerais poser une question sur ce point au Secrétariat car au niveau de la cent sixième session le Directeur général avait, dans le cadre du budget adopté déjà par la Conférence de 1993, fait des propositions et permis de lancer ce programme spécial. Il se trouve maintenant qu'il y a une première réunion des donateurs et j'aimerais savoir quel lien le Secrétariat établit entre les deux; le fait que le Directeur général ait dû, dans le cadre des économies qui ont été faites, lancer ce projet et le fait que maintenant, pour assurer la poursuite de ce programme, on puisse dépendre de contributions extrabudgétaires notamment de cette première réunion de pays donateurs dont mon pays aimerait bien savoir quels ont été les premiers résultats.

Le deuxième programme, l'EMPRES, nous l'avons en son temps appuyé et nous renouvelons notre appui. Nous souhaitons souligner, comme le rapport le fait déjà, le fait que le programme puisse s'étendre le plus tôt possible à la région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest compte tenu du fait que ces dernières années nous avons assisté à une recrudescence de criquets pèlerins dans cette zone, ce qui est très dramatique. Nous souhaiterions que l'espace soit réduit pour cette région afin que le programme puisse l'atteindre très tôt.

Nous voudrions enfin dire que nous sommes partie prenante aux accords de CTPD que nous avons signés également. Nous sommes également partie prenante à l'accord relatif à l'utilisation de retraités et nous nous associons également, à cet égard, aux remarques très pertinentes faites par l'Ambassade de l'Inde. Il serait bon que le Secrétariat, dans le cadre de la transparence, puisse informer les représentants permanents de l'issue de ces projets qui sont importants et pour lesquels le Conseil a donné son appui à plusieurs reprises. Il serait bon également que nous puissions être tenus au courant du déroulement de façon à ne pas être déphasés.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido Observador del Senegal.

Con esto concluye mi lista de oradores. Le voy a pedir al señor Hjort que responda a las cuestiones planteadas.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Let me begin with an expression of appreciation of all the support that has been reconfirmed, and even specific offers of assistance and financial support as well.

With regard to New Cooperation Agreements, it may be appropriate to briefly review the process for TCDC Experts in view of the comments that have been received. There is first the process of reaching agreement on the Agreement between the two parties. That has been accomplished for in excess of 59 countries now.

The second step is a communication to the government requesting them to submit a list of experts who are willing to participate in the programme. At latest count - and I am sure I am outdated because additional ones come in every day - we had in excess of 1 600. Upon receipt, they are submitted to the Technical Unit concerned, to evaluate the candidates, the nominees, in accordance with established criteria used for the Organization in general. Those who are deemed to be appropriate and fully qualified for the assignments are in turn placed in a roster, a data bank if you like, which is accessible to all Units in and throughout the Organization.

In specific answer to a question, to my knowledge the first one has not been employed under the Agreement. Special emphasis is placed on the utilization of TCDC Experts for the Special Programme on food production; this opportunity is identified in every plan of operations that is being negotiated under that Programme. In line with the suggestion that was made by India, FAORs have been alerted to, in particular, emphasize and seek opportunities for the utilization of TCDC Experts. There were questions here about the costs. You will note in paragraph 76 of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget that we anticipate that these Programmes, TCCT and TCDC and so forth, will generate savings. If you will, let me explain that: potential savings of US\$3.6 million for the Regular Programme and US\$4.8 million for the TCP. These are savings in the sense that they lower costs. As you know, in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, we have not proposed that the TCP allocation be reduced by that US\$4.8 million, instead we propose that we should be able to provide a higher quality and larger number of experts under the Programmes.

With respect to the specific question or suggestion of a one-day meeting, we, of course, are open to any suggestions of the Council. I would note for all the members of the Council that the office that is coordinating the activities of these agreements is the Office of Cooperation and Development headed by Mr Omar and I am sure he would be quite pleased to offer additional information that anybody may wish to have on the status of this Programme.

Concerning communications infrastructure, I do not believe there was any question. There was a comment in support, and we appreciate that. On decentralization, first, with respect to the country offices, the International Programme Officers, of which in the 1994-95 Programme of Work and Budget I believe there were around 65 or 67 such posts, are all to be abolished in the forthcoming Programme of Work and Budget. The officers concerned are being redeployed wherever possible. These posts are being substituted by National Professional Officer posts in accord with the guidance and directives of the 106th Session of the Council. In this regard, there was also a question about the cost savings. As communicated again in paragraph 76 of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, the net savings are expected to be US\$6.2 million associated with this transformation from International Programme Officers to National Professional Officers. I would add that in the submissions that we have received, it is evident that we are attracting very well-qualified professional officers. In general, their level of formal training and experience tends to exceed that of those whom they will be replacing.

Concerning the current status, I believe there are still 56 International Programme Officers, all but I believe 18 - and there are still some of those latter that are still in process - all but 18 have been redeployed in the sense that they have found a post and have accepted. This, of course, requires the acceptance of the individual concerned.

As far as NPOs, very few so far have been accepted. The only one that is completely certain is an International Programme Officer that has elected to become a National Professional Officer in his own country and that transfer will take place now in a matter of days. The FAORs have been instructed to complete submissions for NPOs and to forward them by 30 June 1995. In response to the questions about the recruitment procedures, you will note that the Council approved an amendment to our rules and regulations that bring National Professional Officers into the same set of procedures as any other professional officer. That means that submissions are received and screened. In this particular case there is a panel that is formed at the country level and they rank the top five or six that have responded to the advertisements and communications; that submission is forwarded to Headquarters and considered by the Professional Staff Selection Committee. The recommendation of the Professional Staff Selection Committee is submitted to the Director-General for selection. This is precisely the same procedure that is followed with respect to any other professional officer. We are required by our rules and regulations to do so.

I might add that the review of the entire staffing pattern of country offices was completed some time ago and we submitted the proposals to the FAORs and they in turn, in some cases, have requested some modifications, but the General Service staffing pattern that goes along with the Professional pattern has been reviewed and agreed in essentially all cases. The final decisions will be taken in connection with the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget. The Sub-regional Offices are being subjected to the same sort of review as are the Regional Offices.

Turning now to Headquarters restructuring there was the comment about the functional statements. Here, again, perhaps it is necessary to briefly review the process. First of all recognizing that in the restructuring of Headquarters and the field, the functions of essentially every unit are changed and so it required a whole revision of the Manual. The Manual covers the functional statements of each organizational entity making up the Organization; they had to be reviewed and revised. We seized the opportunity also to bring the functional statements into conformance across departments and organizational entities. It has been admittedly a time-consuming process and we wish it could have been completed earlier. It is essentially complete, but there are one or two that still need to be reviewed. The submission for the establishment process which was referenced always comes from the unit concerned, whichever unit is putting forward the proposal. Then it is reviewed by the Establishments machinery and of course again the final approval rests with the Director-General.

A question was raised about the necessity of MSUs. We have decided to establish Management Support Units for each of the major departments at Headquarters and may establish at Regional Offices depending upon the magnitude of the workload and so forth. The reason for doing so is basically two-fold. Some of our departments or divisions already were serviced by so-called Management Support Units. In fact, they were basically Administrative Support Units and were providing personnel and financial services. This was deemed to be based upon experience more efficient than the alternative pattern which was to have a smaller administrative unit for each of the divisions of the Organization. The second reason for the establishment of Management Support Units was to turn them, in fact, into Management Support Units instead of Administrative Support Units so that you bring into the unit those who have the task of helping the Assistant Director-General and the Division Directors to programme the resources and monitor the implementation of an approved Programme of Work and Budget. These functions also were being performed in a more decentralized way and not as efficient as it seemed could be the case in a combined unit.

There was a question, or several references, to delegations of authority. I might say that in addition to the review of functional statements, which of course have to address delegations of authority, there has also been a review of the policies and procedures of the Organization and, of that long list, the Director-General has already cleared for implementation 86 specific changes in policies and procedures. Those are being implemented. I might add in this connection that, while things sometimes seem bureaucratic, it is absolutely essential to ensure that there is appropriate control over the resources that are made available to the Organization.

With respect to EMPRES, I noted a comment that I heard before about seeking to add additional diseases as soon as possible, including foot and mouth disease. I would simply note that, as the document notes, the framework for the consideration of EMPRES sub-programmes is three-fold: an early warning aspect, an early reaction aspect and research. I would hasten to add that research does not mean that the Organization is intending to get into the basic research underlying these activities but, rather, it is to understand what research is under way and to form a network among the various research institutions and try to facilitate that process

by bringing to them the gaps which are identified through our on-going activities. I noted the comment about expansion of the locust programme to West Africa and South West Asia, and that, of course, is referenced in the document itself and we will do so as soon as possible.

Turning now to the Special Programme on Food Production, I would up-date the report. As I am sure many of you know, the first stage of this programme is going forward in 15 countries. The objective is to have pilot projects in each of those countries for this season. There are nine of those countries where their planting season is May-June and in all nine of those we are moving forward with the pilot projects, and we hope to be able to do so in the others when they come to their planting season. In this regard, I very much appreciate the offer from Australia with respect to Papua New Guinea because that is one where we have had some delays, and it does need priority attention to bring it back on schedule.

I wish to remind you that this is a Special Programme for Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. All aspects of that title are of relevance. As you well know, the enlarged concept of food security includes production, stability and access. This Programme does not address all three of those aspects; it addresses only the production aspect. It seeks to facilitate a rapid increase in productivity and production. To do so, its focus is on high-priority areas in order to maximize the pay-off from the Programme.

In this connection, I might note that the so-called International Policy Council on Agriculture, Food and Trade meeting recently at Winrock International in the United States stated - and I quote - "The IPC believes that in the future environmentally sustainable production can best be met by increasing yields on the best land. If yields are not increased full demand can only be met by pressing fragile lands into production, leading to erosion and soil degeneration." I simply make the point there that if you are designing a programme in support of the production aspects of food security, it has a different target group and it will have a different composition than if you are designing a programme for stability. Of course, if you are designing a programme aimed directly at access, you have a very different target group and the design of that programme will be quite different from one for production. This does not mean that we are not involved in all aspects of food security. In these countries, low-income food-deficit countries, an increase in production is also going to have a positive impact on access. It is not going to be enough and there will have to be complementary efforts -and there are complementary efforts - within the Organization and by other partners working together with our member countries on those related aspects. I might add that in the Medium-term Plan that will be before you at Conference we address the work of the Organization in support of food security, which I hope will make it easier for you to clarify the distinctions between the different components and the work that is under way. However, I would remind you that the Director-General reported to you earlier that the provision for the Special Programme was initially US\$3 million, and a large part of the Regular Programme and the Field Programme of the Organization is involved in matters on the food security side, much of it working in low-potential areas and with low-resource producers, and the magnitude of that in terms of total budget is far in excess of that which is provided specifically for the Special Programme.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Hjort, por esas abundantes aclaraciones que me facilitan mucho la tarea, porque tengo poco que adicionar a lo que usted ya ha dicho. Simplemente expresar que este tema sobre el Informe del Director General, respecto a la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas en este 116 período de sesiones del Consejo, recibieron una unánime reconfirmación y apoyo por parte del Consejo, que tomó nota de que ese tema era para información, y confirmó que, a su juicio, estas propuestas debían seguir adelante, que merecían toda la prioridad, tanto en lo relativo a la producción agrícola y alimentaria en países de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos, el programa EMPRES, así como a la descentralización, la reestructuración de la Sede, la infraestructura en materia de comunicaciones, los nuevos acuerdos de cooperación en los que se indicó que se debería asegurar un enfoque integrado en la seguridad alimentaria en sus diversas fases, no solamente en la de carácter productivo sino también en la fase distributiva, de carácter sanitario, nutricional, etc. Asimismo se hicieron recomendaciones específicas, en particular respecto a fortalecer y acelerar el esquema de personal, de formación de grupos técnicos en países en desarrollo, a la contratación de expertos nacionales y al perfeccionamiento de los mecanismos de contratación de personal profesional nacional; todo esto en aras de apoyar la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Finalmente, se puso énfasis en cuanto a que la descentralización no sólo debía fortalecerse en el ámbito administrativo sino también en el proceso de delegación de autoridad, simplificación de procedimientos administrativos, y para, en fin, superar un enfoque centralista al respecto. Desde luego se aclaró que éste era un proceso en marcha, adaptativo, que todavía no había terminado y que, obviamente, los distinguidos miembros de la FAO recibirían informaciones ulteriores sobre los grados de avance y las dificultades encontradas, haciéndose los ajustes pertinentes para que este proceso lleve al fortalecimiento del mandato de la FAO.

No quiero abundar en un detalle mayor respecto de los comentarios que aquí se vertieron. Creo que el señor Hjort lo ha hecho ya con lujo de detalles y quiero aprovechar el tiempo que tenemos todavía disponible esta mañana para pasar de inmediato al Tema 9 de nuestra agenda: Undécimo Congreso Forestal Mundial, 1997, que es para debate y/o decisión.

Le voy a pedir al señor Harcharik que nos informe sobre la situación en que se encuentran las varias ofertas para hospedar este Congreso.

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

9. Eleventh World Forestry Congress 1997

9. Onzième Congrès forestier mondial 1997

9. Undécimo Congreso Forestal Mundial, 1997

David HARCHARIK (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Delegates, I think you know that this Agenda Item is presented in Secretariat documents CL 108/19 and CL 108/LIM/2. The World Forestry Congresses are held every six years. They constitute the most important opportunity for the forestry profession and for all individuals and institutions active in forestry to share knowledge and experiences and to express their vision on the conservation and development of the world's forests. Since its inception, FAO has had a significant role to play in the preparation of these World Forestry Congresses. This Council has the responsibility of designating the host countries for these congresses. FAO then joins forces with the selected country in preparing and organizing the congresses. The Tenth World Forestry Congress was held in Paris in September 1991 and the Eleventh one is to be held in 1997. Among the countries which indicated their interest in hosting the congress in reply to the circular letter of the Director-General, only Portugal and Turkey have maintained their offer. A very brief description of the forestry sector of these two countries is given in document CL 108/LIM/2. Chairman and delegates, since the documentation for the Council was issued, the Director-General has received a letter from the Bolivian Government expressing possible interest in hosting the Congress subject to the availability of financial assistance from FAO. We have provided information to the Bolivian delegation explaining the logistical and financial responsibilities of the host government and we understand that they are re-evaluation their position now.

Chairman, we hope very much that this Session of the Council can reach a consensus on the designation of the host country in order that enough lead time is available to the country to organize this very important Congress in the most efficient manner.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco a los países que muy generosamente han ofrecido sus instalaciones, sus recursos, su capacidad de organización para hospedar este Congreso. A todos los evaluamos con igual interés y respeto y, desde luego, debemos llegar a alguna conclusión con el propósito de poder iniciar los trabajos preparatorios necesarios del Undécimo Congreso Forestal Mundial.

Los países que se habían ofrecido, y se han retirado por varias razones, han facilitado, quizá, este proceso. Sin embargo, y ustedes han tomado nota, de que existen hasta ahora tres candidatos para hospedar este Congreso. Uno de ellos todavía no puede formalizar su ofrecimiento en virtud de los arreglos financieros que se requerirán.

Distinguidos delegados, tras consultas yo he observado que debemos apresurar esta materia más que aplazarla. Por eso me voy a permitir, primero poner estas cuestiones a su consideración con el propósito de que se debata el punto y, posteriormente, si es posible, llegar a una decisión por consenso. A mi me gustaría, en lo personal, evitar una votación al respecto que creo no ayudaría a nadie. Esto lo podremos decidir finalmente al término de un debate, quizá breve, que tendríamos esta mañana.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je serai très bref. Vous ne serez pas surpris d'entendre que la solidarité de l'Union européenne s'impose sur ce point de l'ordre du jour, et par conséquent que les 15 Etats Membres soutiennent la candidature du Portugal. Bien entendu, j'espère que nous parviendrons à un consensus d'ici la fin de la réunion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo le ofrecí en primer lugar la palabra al Delegado de Francia ya que su país hospedó el último Congreso Forestal Mundial.

Ergin DÖNMEZ (Turkey): Mr Chairman, as you well know Turkey has already applied to host the 11th World Forestry Congress which will be held in 1997. This commitment was first made during the 10th

World Forestry Congress and all related meetings of FAO.

I would like to take this opportunity to brief you about Turkey and Turkish Forestry. Turkey is located in Europe as well as in Asia. It is a bridge between Europe and Asia not only by land but also by culture. Turkey is a member of the Near East Regional Committee as well as Europe.

Turkey has 77 million hectares of land, of which 20.2 million hectares is forest land. Turkey is divided into seven regions by different ecologic as well as climatic conditions. First, this makes the country rich in biodiversity with 9 000 plant species of which 3 000 are endemic.

In Turkey, the Ministry of Forestry was established in 1969 but abrogated in 1982 and re-established in 1992. The Ministry of Forestry has four General Directorates, mainly Forestry, Reforestation and Erosion Control, Nature Park Hunting and Wild Life, and Forest and Forest Village Relations.

In the field, the Ministry of Forestry is working along with six Ministerial Regional Directorates, 27 Forest Conservation Directorates, 243 Forest Enterprise Directorates, 1 269 Forest Districts and Reforestation and Erosion Control, as well as National Park Directorates. This Ministry employs more than 4 000 engineers, 28 000 civil servants and 300 000 temporary labourers. The 1995 annual budget of the Ministry is US\$600 million. The Ministry carried out an average of 100 000 hectares of reforestation and afforestation annually within the last decade. The Ministry is also active in the development of forest villages through extra funds channelled through the Treasury.

The Ministry of Forestry has in the last two years organized more than five international conferences, seminars and symposiums. Some of them are International Pinus Brutia Symposium, European Forestry Commission Meeting, the Ministerial Conference follow-up Meeting, International Poplar Executive Committee Meeting, etc.

Turkey possesses all the facilities and services to host the 11th World Forestry Congress in 1997. We would like to propose Antalya, an ancient city, rich with forestry, with an excellent environment, near the Mediterranean Sea in Asia Minor. In and around Antalya there are more than 24 five star hotels with more than 5 000 bedrooms and 10 000 beds. Each hotel also has meeting rooms, conference halls and dining-rooms for the convention session.

Antalya has national parks, nature reservation areas, recreational facilities and highly productive forests. Therefore, it is possible to organize field trips, excursions and touristic visits for the participants as well as those accompanying them.

Antalya has an international airport with flights from countries directly to or via Istanbul with excellent transport facilities.

I would like to inform all member countries that a sufficient amount of funds for the preparatory arrangements for the Conference has already been allocated by the Turkish Government.

We distributed the necessary documents in envelopes on the first day of the Council meeting for all the member countries' information.

We would wish to host the 11th World Forestry Congress in order to serve you as well as to show you our culture and tradition with Turkish hospitality in Turkey. The Turkish delegation would like to have the decision made today in this Council meeting.

José Manuel MENDONCA LIMA (Observateur du Portugal): La délégation portugaise profite de cette opportunité pour faire connaître directement aux membres du Conseil la décision du Portugal de présenter sa candidature pour recevoir à Lisbonne le 11ème Congrès forestier mondial en 1997.

Cette candidature a été présentée en réponse à la lettre d'invitation envoyée par le Directeur général, sous forme d'une lettre signée personnellement par le Ministre des Affaires étrangères du Gouvernement du Portugal. Copie de cette lettre a été distribuée en annexe au document CL 108/LIM/2.

La spécificité de la forêt méditerranéenne, l'importance que notre pays attache à la protection des forêts en Europe, et bien entendu la valeur de la filière forestière pour le Portugal constituent le fondement de cette candidature. Il faut tenir compte du fait qu'un congrès forestier mondial doit être centré autour d'un thème central présentant un intérêt pour tous les pays du monde.

Le thème reste à décider en coopération avec les organisations internationales, notamment la FAO, qui traditionnellement coopèrent avec l'Etat Membre hôte du Congrès, d'une manière très étroite. Mais le onzième Congrès forestier mondial pourra sans doute constituer une opportunité pour attirer l'attention du monde sur les problèmes très spécifiques de la forêt méditerranéenne. En effet, le bilan de la situation mondiale des forêts couvre notamment d'un côté les forêts tempérées des pays développés et d'un autre côté les forêts tropicales des pays en développement de l'Afrique, de l'Amérique latine et de l'Asie.

L'attention de l'opinion publique est de plus en plus dirigée vers les problèmes de la destruction de la forêt dans les régions tropicales, en oubliant que par contre c'est en Afrique du Nord que l'on observe les taux les plus élevés de déforestation. Nous sommes convaincus qu'en reconnaissant la spécificité de la forêt méditerranéenne on pourrait aussi contribuer à mobiliser les efforts pour renforcer la coopération visant à la conservation et au développement durable des forêts de cette importante région dans le monde.

Depuis ces dernières années, le Portugal a assumé un protagonisme international considérable en matière forestière. En tant que suivi de la CNUED, la Conférence d'Helsinki de 1993, où le Portugal a joué un rôle important, se poursuivra lors de la troisième Conférence pour la protection des forêts en Europe qui se tiendra à Lisbonne en 1998, et qui est organisée par notre pays en coopération avec la Finlande et l'Autriche.

En ce qui concerne nos activités internes dans le domaine forestier, l'organisation d'un congrès mondial de cette dimension sera l'objet essentiel de nos préoccupations et permettra de mobiliser toute notre filière forestière. Or cette filière est la principale activité basée sur les ressources naturelles renouvelables du Portugal. L'importance économique, sociale, écologique, environnementale de la forêt et des activités associées est donc indiscutable pour notre pays. A titre indicatif, je peux vous donner quelques chiffres qui complètent le texte du document CL 108/LIM/2. Les forêts couvrent actuellement plus d'un tiers de la surface totale du pays mais il sera possible de mettre en valeur les potentialités qui existent en vue d'augmenter de façon significative cette surface. Les activités humaines associées aux forêts occupent près de 100 000 personnes, ce qui représente environ neuf pour cent de l'emploi total du secteur industriel. La valeur des produits des industries forestières représente près de 12 pour cent de la valeur des produits industriels et l'exportation des produits forestiers représente aussi 12 pour cent de l'exploitation totale du pays. Le Portugal est un pays de l'Union européenne dont le bilan commercial des produits forestiers est positif. Il est donc profondément convaincu de pouvoir rendre un service à la communauté forestière mondiale et pense être en mesure d'organiser le Congrès au Portugal en 1997.

Freddy ABASTOFLOR CORDOVAR (Observador de Bolivia): Gracias señor Presidente, deseo referirme breve y concretamente al por qué del ofrecimiento realizado por el Gobierno de mi país para esperar el 11° Congreso Forestal Mundial que se llevaría a cabo en 1997. Bolivia tiene una extensión de 1.098.000 km², de los cuales tres cuartas partes son tropicales, en los que está incluida la extensa amazonia boliviana. Asimismo mi país se encuentra a la vanguardia en cuanto a la conservación forestal y así puede certificar la pausa ecológica histórica de la amazonia boliviana impuesta por el Gobierno de mi país en 1992.

Por otra parte en 1996 se llevará a cabo en Bolivia, la Cumbre de Jefes de Estado de las Américas, cuyo tema central será el de desarrollo sostenible y medio ambiente. Es en este sentido, que el Gobierno de Bolivia manifestó su interés en hospedar el 11° Congreso Forestal Mundial a llevarse a cabo en 1997. Pero en vista de que las otras dos postulaciones están bastante adelantadas, y a fin de colaborar en la búsqueda de un consenso en torno a la decisión sobre este punto, la Delegación de Bolivia retira su postulación. Gracias.

EL PRESEDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido Observador de Bolivia. El Consejo ha tomado nota de su muy amable, gentil y generoso ofrecimiento y, también, las razones por las cuales lo retira. Muchas gracias.

Nahi SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Sir. Allow me, on behalf of the Near East group shared by my country in this session, to express our heartfelt thanks to all those efforts deployed with a view to convening the Eleventh World Forestry Congress. We thank in particular the Secretariat of the Organization as well as Turkey and Portugal for their offering to host the Congress in their countries with a view to disseminating the successful conclusions hoped of that Congress in all the regions of the world.

We believe, Mr President, that it is better for the Congress to be convened in different regions by rotation. Since the last Congress to date took place in France, we believe it more appropriate for the forthcoming Congress to be held in a different region. Therefore, Turkey is the more appropriate venue for the Congress. This is all the more relevant since the statement we have just heard by the Turkish Representative a few moments ago shows the interest given by the country to forestry and forestry management within the biodiversified regions in Turkey, which is worth noting.

Mrs Elena SUETT-ASKERSTAM (Estonia): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I have only a brief comment on the part of my Government on the subject of the choice of site and the points of attention of the next World Forestry Congress. Forestry is already of prime importance in my country since about 50 percent of our territory is under forest. We also have a situation of overproduction in the food sector, which means that over time the area under cultivation will decrease with resulting unemployment but also a corresponding increase in the forested area. This, we realize, is an anomaly in respect of many countries in the world.

I believe that I can also safely say that a common problem of the countries of our sub-region's forests is ecological damage from the pollution which is the result of uncontrolled industrialization as a leftover from the Soviet era. We are, therefore, anxious to see FAO stress the importance of the science of forestation to ecology and to forestry questions in general, and we should naturally like to see the Eleventh World Forestry Congress take into account the above as well as the particular problems of our sub-regional conditions and problems in the forestry field.

Since there is not the possibility to hold the next Forestry Congress in a country with forest conditions similar to ours, either of the two countries who have generously offered to host the Congress are acceptable to us.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic). In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate.

I would like to endorse what has been said by the Syrian delegate, on behalf of the Near East Group, supporting holding the Eleventh World Forestry Congress in Turkey with a view to enabling another region, a different region, to host the Congress. However, we would be remiss if we did not thank Portugal, among other countries which have offered to host it.

Srta. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina): Gracias señor Presidente. Independientemente de la situación del sector forestal existente en cada uno de los dos países, el ofrecimiento hecho para albergar un Congreso Forestal Mundial implica, por sí mismo, la importancia y el interés que los países le asignan al tema. Felicitamos y agradecemos a los Gobiernos de Portugal y Turquía, también a Bolivia, por el ofrecimiento hecho a la FAO para albergar este evento en un sector al que la República Argentina le asigna gran importancia.

Agradecemos asimismo la información suministrada en el Documento CL 108/LIM/2, sobre las peculiaridades características del sector forestal en Portugal y Turquía, lo que nos ha permitido observar la similitud existente entre la forma de abordar este tema forestal en Turquía y Argentina. La República Argentina comparte con Turquía similitudes respecto a las variedades climáticas de sus regiones, que van desde las zonas cálidas a zonas frías y de gran altitud. Nos complace también ver la importancia que este país le concede a los bosques como fuentes generadoras de energía y la relevancia asignada a los productos forestales no madereros, que como este Consejo conoce, la República Argentina ha destacado su importancia, tanto en sus intervenciones en el COFO como en las sesiones de este Consejo.

No obstante lo expresado, la Delegación Argentina desearía que la definición con relación al país sede para albergar el 11° Congreso Mundial Forestal, pudiera ser el resultado de una decisión acordada entre los dos países que han hecho su ofrecimiento, Portugal y Turquía. Sin embargo, deseamos resaltar que en la decisión final se pudieran valorar los esfuerzos desplegados por Turquía para desarrollar a nivel nacional este importante sector. Desearíamos, señor Presidente, que cualquiera que sea la decisión de este Consejo respecto al país sede, que el Congreso Forestal Mundial incluyera en su tratamiento, de forma especial, el tema relativo a los productos forestales no madereros y la importancia del bosque como fuente generadora de energía y de servicios.

Agradecemos especialmente a los países que han hecho este ofrecimiento, por la ayuda logística y financiera que están dispuestos a afrontar para sufragar los gastos de este importantísimo Congreso.

Hiroaki KISHI (Japan): Thank you, Mr Chairman. On behalf of Asia Group, I would like to join the Near East Group to support for Turkey to host the World Forestry Congress.

Nedelson RICARDO JORGE (Brazil): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Regarding, specifically, the question of the site of the Eleventh World Forestry Congress, my delegation would like to lend its support to the Government of Portugal, which has kindly offered to host the Congress. We would also like to thank all governments which have made or shown interest in making similar offers. We look forward to reaching a consensus solution about that.

Our support to Portugal as the site of the Congress, however, does not imply our support to the World Forestry Congress in its present form. In fact, the Brazilian Government would like to have an opportunity to perceive a detailed review of the timing, the objectives, and functions of the Congress as well as the participation in it. For instance, Appendix B of Document CL108/19 states that the Congress should bring together knowledge and experience with a view to giving guidance on matters pertaining to the formulation and implementation of forest policy. It also states that the Congress should express views which may assist international organizations in planning their future work. We wonder whether the Congress will not prejudice some decisions and, therefore, negatively interfere with the debates on the Multilateral Panel on Forests recently created by the third CSD.

The participation in the Congress, as another example, is also somewhat odd and needs careful consideration. The Congress is equally open, with the same voting rights to representatives of governments as well as to, and I quote, "individuals connected with forestry, forest conservation, and the utilization of forest products," which has a very broad meaning and, depending on the interpretation given, may allow almost anybody to qualify.

In short, Mr Chairman, we feel that there is an urgent need for such a detailed review in order to adapt the World Forest Congress to the new institutional realities at the multilateral level in dealing with questions relating to forests, in particular in light of the Multilateral Panel on Forests recently established by the third CSD. We look forward for an appropriate opportunity to perceive such a detailed review.

Francis J. VACCA (United States of America): Thank you, Mr Chairman. The United States is pleased to see two good offers to host the Eleventh World Forestry Congress due to be held in 1997. In view of the fact that the last World Forestry Congress was held in Western Europe, it might be an advantage to consider a country closer to the Near East region of the world, a region that has not hosted a World Forestry Congress.

Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso): Ma délégation a examiné avec intérêt les candidatures qui ont été soumises pour recevoir le onzième Congrès forestier mondial. En réaffirmant son soutien à ce Congrès forestier, ma délégation pense que le choix du pays hôte devra se faire dans un esprit de consensus. C'est la seule façon de mobiliser un plus grand nombre de participants; c'est la seule façon aussi de garantir des résultats.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation est disposée à se joindre à tout consensus qui pourrait se dégager. Et nous saisissons cette occasion pour remercier les Gouvernements de la Turquie et du Portugal de leur disponibilité.

TRIYONO (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, allow me briefly on behalf of the Indonesian delegation to say that we would like to support the proposal from our friends from Spain and the United States of America concerning the hosting of the XIth World Forestry Congress.

Saleh HAMDİ (Tunisie): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais exprimer l'appui de ma délégation à l'appel que vous avez bien voulu lancer au début de la séance pour régler cette question par consensus.

Ma délégation remercie les pays qui ont bien voulu offrir d'accueillir le onzième Congrès mondial sur les forêts. Nous sommes évidemment sensibles aux arguments avancés par les délégations de ces pays à l'appui de leur candidature et nous considérons que les deux pays sont bien aptes à accueillir ce Congrès.

Je serais peut-être tenté de lancer un appel aux deux délégations concernées pour essayer de trouver un terrain d'entente au moyen de consultations.

Toutefois, compte tenu de la pratique de rotation géographique qui préside à l'organisation de ce genre de rencontres internationales et après le retrait du candidat africain, il me semble que la candidature turque peut être valablement retenue.

Mansour Mabrouk SEGHAÏER (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to support the candidacy of Turkey to host the XIth World Forestry Congress.

Saleh Sadiq OSMAN (Tanzania): Mr Chairman, my delegation appreciates the efforts of the Portuguese and Turkish Governments to host the XIth World Forestry Congress. We think that it is fair to rotate our activities within the regions since the 1991 Conference was conducted in France. Therefore, it would be fair that this coming Conference should be hosted in Turkey. My delegation fully supports and endorses the proposal that Turkey should host the 1997 Conference.

Riccardo MORANDINI (Observateur de l'Union internationale des Instituts de Recherches forestières): L'Union internationale des Instituts de Recherches forestières porte un grand intérêt au Congrès forestier mondial qu'elle estime être le forum idéal pour la transmission et l'application des résultats de la recherche forestière aux responsables des politiques forestières ainsi que l'application des techniques forestières.

Nous voudrions, en conséquence, rappeler qu'à l'occasion du huitième Congrès forestier mondial à Djakarta, une coopération étroite entre les comités d'organisation et l'IUFRO a permis d'assurer de façon très efficace cet échange de vues et notamment, pour chaque grande section du Congrès, un porte-parole de l'IUFRO a fait le point des progrès réalisés dans les secteurs spécifiques.

Je voudrais donner l'assurance que l'IUFRO est prête à offrir toute sa coopération pour le développement le plus efficace possible du prochain Congrès forestier mondial.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Observador. No veo ningún otro delegado u observador que desee hacer uso de la palabra. Ustedes, por tanto, podrán concluir conmigo en que, en primer lugar, el Consejo ha agradecido a aquellos países que han propuesto hospedar el Congreso Forestal Mundial, en particular los últimos dos países de la lista de cinco, es decir, Turquía y Portugal, por ofrecer las condiciones, los preparativos, la disposición para realizar el Congreso. Ustedes también seguramente coincidirán conmigo en que no existe un consenso en esta sala respecto de quién debe hospedar el Congreso; no obstante, se expresó el agradecimiento profundo y el reconocimiento de que ambos países reunían las características necesarias para ello. Es para mí particularmente difícil tratar de identificar si hubo una mayoría o no hubo una mayoría respecto a uno u otro país. Sugiero, distinguidos delegados, para evitar una votación, que pospongamos la decisión final hasta mañana y, tras consultas entre los países, se observe la orientación general de los apoyos y podamos, en consecuencia, resolver este asunto tan delicado por la vía consensual. Si ustedes están de acuerdo conmigo, se celebrarán ulteriores consultas a la luz del debate que hemos tenido y mañana decidiremos.

Me ha pedido la distinguida Delegación de Turquía hacer uso de la palabra; se la otorgo.

Ergin DÖNMEZ (Turkey): Mr Chairman, according to the countries who took the floor, I am satisfied that Turkey has more support than Portugal. Therefore, we would like to have the decision today.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, distinguidos delegados, esto me llevaría de inmediato a una votación. Les pregunto a ustedes si tienen alguna objeción.

José Manuel MENDONCA LIMA (Observateur du Portugal): Monsieur le Président, je crois qu'il faudra éviter - et vous l'avez dit - un vote. Vous pourriez peut-être faire vous-même une proposition en vous basant sur ce qui vous semble souhaité par la majorité des membres du Conseil. Vous pourriez tirer vous-même cette conclusion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, distinguidos delegados, si ustedes me lo permiten, debo advertir que del debate que he escuchado y también tras haber hecho otras consultas de carácter informal, que desde luego no tienen necesariamente un reflejo formal en los debates, mi sentimiento como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, y sin que esto prejuzgue la opinión definitiva de los Miembros, es que Turquía tiene un apoyo mayor para hospedar el Congreso Forestal Mundial. Desde luego no está en mí tomar una decisión final y es arriesgado lo que he dicho, por eso no me atrevo a imponerlo como conclusión a este Consejo, pero mi percepción, distinguido Observador de Portugal, es que Turquía contaría con un apoyo mayoritario.

Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroon): Mr Chairman, do not let anyone distract you from your own judgement. You have already stated that you are going to postpone this until tomorrow for further consultation. I suggest that you stick with this decision because tomorrow we may have a different situation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos delegados, la única manera de resolver este asunto es preguntándoles a los dos distinguidos anfitriones potenciales si existe en alguno de ellos la intención de retirarse y en ese caso que así lo haga; de otra manera, les propongo que mañana, tras nuevas consultas, decidamos, y, en todo caso, votemos.

Turquía ha manifestado el sentir de que cuenta con un apoyo mayoritario; mi sentimiento, repito, muy personal, sin imponérselo, es que así sería en el caso de una votación, pero, obviamente, esto está abierto a la prueba definitiva. Distinguidos delegados, no veo que haya ninguna otra opinión al respecto. Creo que este tema, que es delicado porque nadie quiere ofender a ninguno de los dos países anfitriones que amablemente se han ofrecido, sería mejor que lo dejáramos para el día de mañana evitando una votación.

Manuel José DIAS SOARES COSTA (Observateur du Portugal): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, de m'accorder encore une fois la parole. J'ai déjà dit qu'à notre avis, vous avez déjà les informations suffisantes et qu'en ce qui nous concerne, nous serons satisfaits de votre conclusion. Mais, évidemment, ce n'est pas à nous de vous dire quelle est la conclusion que nous tirons du débat. Vous êtes libre de le faire et le Portugal acceptera votre suggestion.

EL PRESIDENTE: De Presidente Independiente del Consejo me he convertido en gran elector. Mi conclusión es que una mayoría apoya a Turquía, distinguido Observador de Portugal; ésa sería mi conclusión. Si usted acepta esa conclusión, evitaríamos una votación y le ofreceríamos a Turquía nuestra decisión de que hospedara el XI Congreso Forestal Mundial.

Manuel José DIAS SOARES COSTA (Observateur du Portugal): La délégation portugaise tient à remercier tous les membres du Conseil et vous-même, Monsieur le Président, de la manière sage - je souligne sage - dont vous avez tiré une conclusion correcte de notre débat sur le Congrès forestier mondial.

La candidature portugaise était une candidature ouverte. Notre intention fondamentale était de répondre positivement à l'invitation du Directeur général à un moment où notre Organisation a la responsabilité d'être le maître d'oeuvre dans le domaine forestier mais aussi de démontrer l'intérêt de mon pays pour les problèmes de la filière forestière.

Nous sommes en tout cas sensibles au principe de la rotation. La Turquie, étant également un pays de la Méditerranée, jouera elle aussi le rôle important qui consiste à attirer l'attention du monde sur le problème de la forêt méditerranéenne. Nous félicitons nos amis turcs et nous souhaitons à la délégation turque un grand succès dans l'organisation du Congrès forestier mondial. De plus, nous donnons l'assurance à nos amis turcs de pouvoir compter avec la collaboration totale et dévouée de mon pays et des institutions forestières portugaises.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Honor a quien honor merece, distinguido Delegado de Portugal. Su posición es de gran altura y de enorme generosidad y este Consejo se lo agradece en todo lo que vale. Muchas gracias, distinguido Observador por Portugal.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, con esto se concluye el tema 9 de nuestro programa; la decisión de nuestro Consejo es que el XI Congreso Forestal Mundial se realice en Turquía. El Consejo reitera su enorme reconocimiento a los países que se habían ofrecido, y en particular a Portugal por la altura con la que cedió su ofrecimiento en virtud del debate sostenido. Muchas gracias distinguidos delegados.

Me gustaría tratar el tema 19 muy brevemente; quedan 15 minutos para la 1 y quizá podemos terminarlo con esa brevedad. Me voy a permitir, por tanto, pedirle al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Institucionales y Jurídicos, el Embajador Pulides, que nos presente este tema.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)**QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)****ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICIOS (continuación)**

- 19. Report of the Sixty-fourth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 10-12 April 1995)**
- 19. Rapport de la soixante-quatrième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, 10-12 avril 1995)**
- 19. Informe del 64º periodo de sesiones dle Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (Roma, 10-12 de abril de 1995)**

Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters): Thank you Mr Chairman, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. The Council has before you today the Report of the 64th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters which you will have in document CL 108/5. Three matters were discussed by the CCLM and I suggest that, as is the usual practice, the Council consider each one individually.

On the first matter, however, I have just been informed, that further consultations are taking place on this matter. This matter for your information is the participation of EC and EC Member States representing our overseas territories outside the juridical scope of FAO. In FAO meetings, and in environmental agreements under FAO assistance, I believe it would therefore be appropriate if consideration of this item could be postponed until the next Session of the Council in October in order to allow sufficient time for consultations to be carried out successfully.

We move therefore to Item 19.2, amendments to the Agreement of the establishment of the Commission for controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East, paragraph 8. The second item which the CCLM has submitted to the Council for consideration concerns proposed amendments to the Agreement of the Establishment of the Commission for controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East. This Agreement was approved by the 44th Session of Council in July 1955 and entered into force on 21 February 1967. The objectives of this Agreement are to prevent losses to agriculture in certain countries of the Near East caused by the Desert Locust by promoting national and international research and action with respect to the control of the Desert Locust.

Paragraph 9, the Agreement underwent some minor amendments in 1976. Further amendments have now been suggested by the Commission after consideration at the 20th Session in December 1994. These amendments are set forth in paragraph 18 of the Report.

Paragraph 10. The CCLM was informed that the amendments set forth in paragraph 18 which would provide that the Commission pay expenses incurred by member delegates attending its Session would not be in conformity with paragraph 32 or the appendix or part R of the FAO Basic Texts which provides that the basic texts and work established under Article XIV of the Constitution should specify that the expenses of members attending Sessions of such bodies as government representatives should be borne by their respective governments. However, a majority of delegates who had adopted these amendments at the last Session of the Commission for controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East have, nevertheless, favoured the amendment for the reasons given in paragraph 19 of the CCLM Report.

The CCLM concluded that with the exception of the amendments suggested to paragraph 18, the proposals were accepted from a legal point of view and recommended their approval by the Council. Thus, the Council is being asked today to approve the amendments with the exception set forth in paragraph 18 of the Report. This ends this item.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Poulides, por la introducción de este tema. Les recuerdo que hay una propuesta, la de pasar al tema relativo a la participación de la CE y de sus Estados Miembros para una próxima reunión del Consejo. Si no hay ninguna objeción a ello, así se decide.

Respecto de los otros dos puntos que ha tocado el Presidente del Comité les pregunto a ustedes si tienen alguna observación que hacer.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters): Item 19.3. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Procedure of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP). At its 10th Session in 1959 the Conference authorized the Director-General to establish Article VI of the Constitution a continuing Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic area for which the FAO Fisheries Division would act as Secretariat. The title of the Working Party was subsequently changed by the Council in 1968 to become the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics. The details are given in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Report.

Paragraph 13. In July 1994, an *ad hoc* Inter-Agency Consultation on Atlantic Fishery Statistic made a number of proposals to modify the composition and terms of reference of the coordinating Working Party. In September of the same year, the North Atlantic Fishery Organization endorsed the proposals and made suggestions for additional amendments. Several other international bodies have also given their support to these proposals. Details are given in paragraphs 26-30 of the Report.

Finally, the Coordinating Working Party, itself endorsed the revised statutes in March of this year. The CCLM examined the revised text or the statutes and concluded that they were in conformity with the Basic Texts of the Organization. The revised statutes are now presented to you for approval.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Embajador Poulides, si no hay ninguna observación respecto a este punto, podríamos concluir diciendo que el Consejo manifiesta su conformidad con las enmiendas a los estatutos y al reglamento del Grupo de Trabajo.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Cela n'a rien à voir avec le contenu des textes. D'ailleurs il ne s'agissait pas de l'ensemble de l'Article 18 qui était à revoir, mais de la partie h) de l'article 18.

Je voudrais simplement, au nom de mes collègues du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, et au nom je l'espère du Conseil, remercier Mr. Stein pour le travail remarquable qu'il a accompli au sein de notre Comité. J'espère qu'il aura une retraite sympathique, et comme il est question d'utiliser les retraités je pense qu'il sera un des retraités actifs de notre Organisation. Tous les membres du CQCJ lui présentent leurs meilleurs vœux.

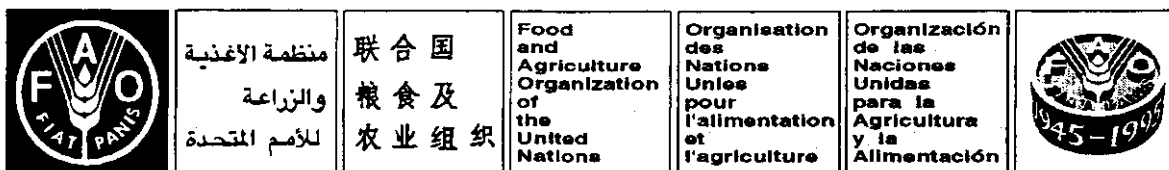
EL PRESIDENTE: Yo también deseo unirme a esa felicitación y buenos deseos, ya que le considero un amigo mío.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.

12 June 1995



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108° período de sesiones

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESION PLENARIA

12 June 1995

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.45
hours Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 45
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 15.45
horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes distinguidos delegados, vamos a pasar ahora al Tema 13, que son los preparativos para la próxima Conferencia de la FAO, la vigésimo octava Conferencia, que se celebrará en octubre de este año. Como ustedes pueden observar este tema consta de tres puntos, el último de los cuáles, el Tema 13.3, relativo a la presentación de candidaturas para el cargo de Presidente y demás miembros de la mesa de la Conferencia, lo hemos concluido en una reunión informal y, me permito, entonces, tocar los Temas 13.1 y 13.2, que les propongo lo hagamos de manera conjunta porque ambos temas, el relativo a la Organización y calendario provisional del período de sesiones y el del plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente independiente del Consejo, están ligados.

Si no hay objeciones, voy a pedirle al señor Zenny, Secretario General del Consejo que haga uso de la palabra.

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

- 13. Preparations for the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference**
- 13. Préparatifs de la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence de la FAO**
- 13. Preparativos para el 28° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO**
- 13.1 Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable 13.1 Organisation de la session et calendrier provisoire**
- 13.1 Organización y calendario provisional del período de sesiones**
- 13.1 Deadline for Nominations for Independent Chairman of the Council**
- 13.2 Délai de présentation des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil**
- 13.2 Plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo**

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr Chairman. The background document, as indicated, is CL 108/11 and I would like to focus the Council's attention on three matters in order to facilitate your discussion: Paragraphs 37 and 38 of the document which provides the draft decision that the Council might wish to take; Appendix A to that document which gives the Provisional Agenda of the Conference; and Appendix B which sets out a tentative timetable based on the Provisional Agenda.

Paragraph 37 suggests that the deadline for the receipt of nominations for the Independent Chairman of the Council be 12.00 hours on Friday 18 August and takes care of Sub-item 13.2. Paragraph 38 contains five recommendations that the Council might wish to pass on to the Conference in relation to the preparation and organization of its work. They are straightforward and take into consideration the proposals made by the 1993 Conference and the Council itself last November as well as past established practice, whenever applicable. They will be incorporated in a revised document on arrangements, which will be placed before the Conference.

Appendix A gives the Provisional Agenda, which only contains items that must be examined by the Conference. However, you will note that after the last item, Item 27, there is a list of subjects for which information documents will be tabled. This is an innovation meant to keep the Agenda as short as possible.

Finally, Appendix B shows the tentative timetable based on the Provisional Agenda. My colleagues in the Conference Division and I stand ready to provide any answer or clarification that the Council might require from this document.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. El documento está claro y sigue las directivas tanto de la Conferencia como del Consejo. Quisiera, pues, destacar las novedades en el borrador de decisiones párrafo 38, que son las siguientes. La fecha límite para presentación de candidaturas para el Consejo es el sábado 21 de octubre, que es el segundo día de la Conferencia. El documento con los formularios estará listo para su conclusión en esta sesión del Consejo, de manera que quien lo desee puede presentar su candidatura en los meses próximos antes

del 21 de octubre. Segundo, la concentración de todas las votaciones importantes en la Conferencia el viernes 27 de octubre, al final de la primera semana. Tercero, el límite sugerido es de 10 minutos para las declaraciones de los ministros, a fin de facilitar que todos los que quieran hacer uso de la palabra lo puedan hacer en el tiempo permitido, y a la vez asegurar que la Conferencia tenga una duración que no exceda de dos semanas. La reserva de la semana del 18 al 22 de septiembre para que los representantes permanentes puedan examinar, cuando sea necesario, aquellos proyectos de decisión para la Conferencia en los documentos que no serían sometidos a escrutinio previo ni por el Consejo ni por una reunión ministerial o en su caso gubernamental. Esta sería una manera de asegurar que antes de llegar a la Conferencia, por lo menos un foro gubernamental habrá considerado y aprobado cada proyecto de decisión. Con estos breves comentarios quisiera abrir la discusión sobre estos dos temas, el 13.1 y el 13.2. ¿Hay alguna delegación que desee hacer uso de la palabra? No veo ninguna; en ese caso, distinguidos delegados, el Consejo ha tomado nota de estos dos puntos y decide en consecuencia su aplicación a partir de ahora. Así se aprueba.

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

ACTIVITIES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

11. World Food Programme

11. Programme alimentaire mondial

11. Programa mundial de alimentos

11.1 Twentieth Annual Report of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

11.1 Vingtième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM

11.1 20° Informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA

EL PRESIDENTE: Permítanme, pues, pasar al Tema 11 de nuestro programa, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que consta también de 3 puntos, el 11.1, vigésimo informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA, para decisión, documento CL 108/13 y suplemento 1, el 11.2, cuentas comprobadas de 1992 y 1993 del PMA, para decisión, documento C 95/7 y CL 108/14, y el punto 11.3, aplicación de las Resoluciones 48/162 y 47/199 de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas en lo relativo a la transformación del CPA en una junta ejecutiva y la revisión de las normas generales del PMA, esto también para decisión, documento CL 108/16, 108/16-Corr.1 y CL 108/16-Sup.1.

La forma en que debatiremos estos temas será uno por uno, y al tratar el primero les recuerdo que este informe se presenta para su aprobación por el Consejo, de conformidad con la norma general 12 del Programa Mundial de la Alimentación.

El Consejo tiene ante sí el objetivo de promesas del PMA para el período 1997-98, que asciende a 1 300 millones de dólares, y que fue aprobado por el Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria en su trigésimo noveno período de sesiones celebrado el mes pasado. El CPA decidió recomendarlo al ECOSOC y al Consejo de la FAO para su aprobación y presentación subsiguiente a la aprobación por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas y la Conferencia de la FAO. Se pide, por lo tanto, al Consejo, que apruebe el objetivo de promesas del Programa Mundial de la Alimentación para el 1997-98, que asciende a la cantidad, que ya había indicado, de 1 300 millones de dólares, a la vez que un proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia, y que transmita ambas, y dicho proyecto de resolución, al vigésimo octavo período de la Conferencia en octubre. Se presenta una resolución paralela al ECOSOC para que la apruebe y transmita a la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, estas son las cuestiones sobre las que este Consejo debe decidir. Le pregunto al señor Ngongi si desea ofrecernos algunos comentarios ulteriores. Tiene la palabra el señor Ngongi.

A. Namanga NGONGI (PMA): Señor Presidente, déjeme expresarle mi satisfacción de verle nuevamente en esta importante función. Es un honor para mí representar a la Directora Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en esta sesión del Consejo de la FAO. Permítame ahora, señor Presidente, realizar la introducción del punto 11.1.

(continues in English)

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, the report before you is submitted for your approval in pursuance of Rule 12 of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme, in accordance with which the Committee on Food Aid Policy and Programmes is to report annually to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO. The 28th Report of the CFA to ECOSOC and the FAO Council summarizes the major subjects discussed at the 37th and 38th Sessions of the Committee, which took place from 19 to 26 May and 12 to 16 May 1994, respectively.

During the reporting period, Mr Chairman, the Committee worked on several fundamental issues related to policy, operations and resources. The Programme's foundations were deeply analysed and the task of reviewing the Programme's overall policies, objectives and strategies culminated in the adoption of the World Food Programme's Mission Statement by the CFA at its 37th Session. In accordance with the Mission Statement, the core policies and strategies that govern WFP activities are to provide food aid to save lives in refugee and other emergency situations, to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives, and to help build assets and promote self-reliance among poor people and communities, particularly through labour-intensive work programmes.

WFP's operations have been notably strengthened by the adoption by the Committee of principles and guidelines for a country-based programme approach, which includes resource levels and criteria for project approval. The adoption of a Programme approach based on country-specific strategies is fully consistent with UN General Assembly Resolution 47/199. It will contribute to a better integration of WFP's resources within the policies and priorities of recipient countries and will ensure closer coordination with other partners in development.

The total resources managed by WFP in 1994 remained at the level of more than 3 million tonnes per annum reached in the early nineties. However, WFP's development resources continued to decline significantly in both absolute and relative terms. About one third of WFP's resources contributed to development activities and two thirds were earmarked for emergency and protracted relief operations. The continued cut-back of resources for development therefore carries serious implications for future WFP assistance to poor people and communities.

The review of the resources policies of the Programme carried out by the Committee at its 37th and 38th Sessions will help to improve predictability, accountability and transparency. Furthermore, a Working Group on options for WFP's resources, policies and long-term financing was established by the 38th Session of the CFA. The Working Group will, *inter alia*, make proposals for bringing increased predictability of resource availability and flexibility in their use. The recommendation of the Working Group will be submitted to the 40th Session of the CFA next Autumn. It should also, we hope, lead to an increase in the level of resources.

Mr Chairman, the Committee also devoted a great amount of its Programme of Work to governance issues which follow from General Assembly Resolution 48/162. The recommendations made by the CFA at its 38th Session are before the Council as a separate agenda item.

Mr Chairman, in 1994 WFP faced major challenges in fulfilling its humanitarian missions. Dealing with these led to intensified collaboration with all of its partners.

With the tragic and dramatic increase in the number of internally displaced and refugees worldwide, concerted action by all of the United Nations family is a must. WFP has been a strong supporter of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator. Indeed, the Under Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, Mr Peter Hansen, addressed the 28th Session of the CFA.

The same close relationship applies to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. WFP and UNHCR have revised and updated their Memorandum of Understanding to further enhance and strengthen their effort to save lives. Similar efforts are being discussed with UNICEF.

Partnership with the NGO community has been strengthened by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). I would hope to have such Memorandum of Understanding signed by many of the NGOs we are working with.

As you would expect, Mr Chairman, there has been strong collaboration between the three Rome-based food organizations. FAO, IFAD and WFP are working closely together in the preparatory work for major global initiatives such as the forthcoming Women's Conference in Beijing. The three are also working together in an ACC Working Group dealing with sustainable food for security in Africa. Significant progress was made in 1994 in collaboration with relief operations and joint assessment of emergency needs, with FAO, continued to be an essential part of the work of WFP. The two organizations prepared 11 food needs assessments in Africa. In addition, WFP, FAO, Save the Children Fund (UK) and USAID continued their work on vulnerability mapping.

WFP also works closely with IFAD. WFP-assisted development projects in 17 countries benefited in collaboration with IFAD; both Agencies are working together within the framework of JCGP to operationalize the continuance from relief to development.

Mr Chairman, allow me to bring an important matter for decision to the attention of the Council. The recently concluded 39th Session of CFA approved the WFP's pledging target for the biennium 1997-98. In approving the target the Committee recognized the difficult balance that needs to be reached in arriving at a realistic pledging target that adequately reflects the increasing development assistance needed in the context of declining global resources for development. Hence the decision to endorse a lower target of US\$1.3 billion for the 1997-98 biennium. Draft resolutions from the Council to the Conference recommending approval of the US\$1.3 billion target are submitted for your consideration, endorsement and transmission to the Conference for approval.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, amigo mío, señor Ngongi, veo además que si bien su español era excelente, ahora es mejor, y la próxima vez lo hablará mejor que yo. Distinguidos delegados, tienen ustedes a su consideración el tema 11.1 y les pregunto si hay alguna delegación que desee hacer uso de la palabra. No habiendo ninguna petición de palabra, el Consejo aprueba el Informe del vigésimo período de sesiones del Comité del Programa Alimentario, que fue enviado tanto a este Consejo como al ECOSOC; refrenda, en consecuencia, el Objetivo de Promesas del PMA para 1997-98, por 1 300 millones de dólares y decide también transmitir el proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia para su aprobación en el 28° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la Organización en octubre. Así se decide.

Pasemos ahora al tema 11.2, cuentas comprobadas de 1992-93. Tenía primero la información de que el tema lo iba a presentar el asesor legal pero lo va a hacer el señor Ngongi.

11.2 WFP Audited Accounts 1992-93

11.2 Comptes vérifiés du PAM 1992-93

11.2 Cuentas comprobadas de 1992-93 del PMA

A. Namanga NGONGI (WFP): In accordance with WFP Regulation 1, the Executive Director submitted to the 28th Session of the CFA the audited biennial accounts for 1992/93 for approval. In line with General Regulation 30 and Financial Regulation 9 the Executive Director also transmitted to the CFA the Report of the External Auditor and the reports of the Advisory Committee on administrative and budgetary questions issued at its 37th and 79th Session of the FAO Finance Committee on the 1992/93 accounts.

Also in accordance with WFP's Financial Regulation 11/10, the Reports of the External Auditor and the audited financial statements together with the comments therein, SAAVQ, the FAO Finance Committee and CFA itself will be forwarded to the United Nations General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council and the FAO Conference through this Council for adoption.

The CFA, having considered the accounts as transmitted by the Executive Director, and the Reports thereon made by the SAAVQ at the 79th Session of the FAO Finance Committee, approved the 1992/93 biennial accounts.

At the request of the FAO Finance Committee and as endorsed by the CFA, the programme was submitted to the 39th Session of the CFA, the Progress Report on the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor regarding the financial period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1993, together with the comments of the FAO Finance Committee and the SAAVQ. The comments of the 1st Session of the FAO Finance Committee on the Progress Report on the implementation of External Auditor's recommendations have been submitted to this Council under document CL 108/14.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, ustedes pueden observar que las cuentas comprobadas se someten para decisión a este Consejo, ¿Hay alguna objeción? En ese caso el Consejo aprueba las Cuentas comprobadas para 1992-93.

11.3 Implementation of UN General Assembly Resolutions 48/162 and 47/199: Transformation of the CFA into an Executive Board and Revision of the General Regulations of WFP

11.3 Exécution des Résolutions 48/162 et 47/199 de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur la transformation du CPA en Conseil d'administration et la révision des Règles générales du PAM

11.3 Aplicación de las Resoluciones 48/162 y 47/199 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en lo relativo a la transformación del CPA en una Junta Ejecutiva y la revisión de las Normas Generales del PMA

EL PRESIDENTE: Pasemos ahora al tema 11.3 de nuestra agenda, Aplicación de las Resoluciones 48/162 y 47/199 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en lo relativo a la transformación del CPA en una Junta Ejecutiva y la revisión de las Normas Generales del PMA. Como este tema está relacionado con la aplicación de ambas resoluciones aprobadas en diciembre de 1993, por lo que se decidió transformar los órganos rectores de los programas y fondos de las Naciones Unidas encargados de las actividades operativas en el sector del desarrollo como el PNUD, el FPNU, el UNICEF, en juntas ejecutivas, y el fortalecimiento de la función política del ECOSOC con respecto a la dirección de esos programas y fondos, y como la decisión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas se aplica también al PMA, y teniendo en cuenta que las organizaciones matrices del PMA son las Naciones Unidas y la FAO, en el párrafo 30 de la resolución se pide que se celebren consultas al respecto entre las Naciones Unidas y la FAO, con miras a la adopción de resoluciones paralelas por la Asamblea General y por la Conferencia de la FAO.

El Consejo recordará que este asunto se presentó al último período de sesiones únicamente a título informativo. En ese período de sesiones se presentaron informes sobre las consultas entre las Secretarías de la Naciones Unidas y de la FAO y sobre el proceso iniciado por el Comité de Políticas y Programas y de Ayuda Alimentaria. Todo esto con miras a revisar las Normas Generales y preparar un primer proyecto de resoluciones paralelas para aplicar la Resolución 48/162 de la Asamblea General.

A este respecto se señala que el CPA estableció un grupo de trabajo abierto encargado de revisar las Normas Generales del PMA en aplicación de la Resolución 48/162 de la Asamblea General, así como de la Resolución 47/199 de la Asamblea General relativa a la introducción de un enfoque por programas.

El Grupo de trabajo contó con la asistencia de los asesores jurídicos de las Naciones Unidas y de la FAO. El informe y las recomendaciones del Grupo de trabajo se aprobaron en el trigésimo octavo período de sesiones del CPA, celebrado en diciembre de 1994, en el que se pidió que se presentaran a la Conferencia de la FAO y a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, por conducto del Consejo de la FAO y del Consejo Económico y Social de las Naciones Unidas, tanto el texto del proyecto de Normas Generales revisadas del Programa Mundial de la Alimentación por el que entraban en vigor las Resoluciones 48/162 y 47/199 de las Naciones Unidas, como los proyectos de resoluciones paralelas.

Bien, lo que se le pide al Consejo es que ratifique las Normas Generales revisadas del PMA y el Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia y que remita ambos documentos al vigésimo octavo período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO con miras a que ésta lo apruebe.

Se ha presentado una resolución paralela al ECOSOC, a fin de que la ratifique y la remita a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Sin embargo hay algunas novedades y, por ello, le voy a pedir al Asesor legal, doctor Moore, que las presente.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I would just like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that since the 38th Session of the CFA in December 1994 a draft parallel resolution of the General Assembly has been discussed at ECOSOC. The results of these discussions are reported in document CL 108/16, Sup. 1. As you will note from that document, Mr Chairman, ECOSOC has approved the draft parallel resolution submitted to it subject to a number of amendments. Agreement on the content of these amendments was reached after lengthy negotiations in New York and, as I understand it, after consultation with the various groups in Rome.

In order to maintain the parallel nature of the General Assembly and Conference Resolutions, these amendments should now be considered and endorsed also by the FAO Council. The changes to the draft Conference Resolution required to bring it into line with the amendment adopted by ECOSOC in New York have been set out in the revised draft Conference Resolution which you will find annexed to CL 108/16, Sup. 1. The attention of the Council is drawn to those documents.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias doctor Moore. Distinguidos delegados está abierta la discusión para decidir sobre este tema ¿algún delegado desea hacer uso de la palabra?

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Chairman. As Chairman of the Group of 77, I would like to say that the proposal agreed by ECOSOC and the one agreed in Rome is acceptable to us; so we support this proposal, and it should be adopted, and we would like to thank the Eastern European countries for their understanding and for accepting this compromise between the different groups.

Mme. Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique): J'espère traduire la pensée des autres membres du groupe de l'OCDE en m'associant à l'intervention qui vient d'être faite par le Président du Groupe des 77, et en réitérant également les remerciements qu'il a exprimés à l'adresse des pays de l'Europe de l'Est qui, pour faciliter ce compromis, ont accepté à titre temporaire la proposition qui a été faite.

José ROBLES AGUILAR (México): Nos sumamos, como lo hicieran las distinguidas delegaciones de Egipto y de Bélgica, como representantes de los grupos de la OCD y del G-77 a este consenso alcanzado en Egipto.

Mi delegación quiere, señor Presidente, expresar su agradecimiento al papel clave que con esfuerzos hizo el señor Bailey a través de viajes a Nueva York, a través de una intensa cooperación tanto en Nueva York como aquí en Roma. Esta tarea creo que en gran medida es un gran mérito de él.

V. A. ZVEZDIN (Observer for Russian Federation): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I am not going to reopen discussion of this problem. Certainly, my country was not very happy when the Committee took the decision on this question, but still we join the consensus in New York, and we hope in due time we shall review that situation.

But as we are still discussing Item 11, I should like very briefly to say that my delegation associates itself with very high evaluation of the activities of the World Food Programme received at the last session of CFA from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and member countries, and we should like also to express our sincere gratitude to the Executive-Director, Madame Catherine Bertine, and her able team for a very good job done in mobilizing and very effectively organizing emergency food assistance to the population suffered in connection with conflict in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation.

Gheorghe APOSTOIU (Observateur de la Roumanie): Je voudrais confirmer l'accord de la Roumanie sur le compromis annoncé concernant la répartition des places dans le Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial. La volonté politique de la Roumanie est de voir concrétiser les décisions et les mesures prises dans le sens de la mise en application de la résolution de l'Assemblée générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, distinguidos delegados, como ningún delegado u observador desea intervenir, podemos concluir diciendo que el Consejo ratifica las Normas Generales revisadas del PMA, así como el proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia y decide remitirlos al 28° período de sesiones de la Conferencia en octubre. Así se decide.

Distinguidos delegados con esto hemos concluido los puntos del orden del día para hoy. Yo sé que el Comité de Redacción tiene un arduo trabajo por delante y creo que ustedes pueden aprovechar muy bien esta hora y media adicional que les estamos dando al terminar con tiempo, y tomarse el resto de la tarde libre.

Si no hay ninguna otra observación levantamos la sesión deseándoles una buena y placentera tarde.

The meeting rose at 16.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.15 horas.

13 June 1995



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108° período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESION PLENARIA

13 June 1995

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00
hours Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 10
heures sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 10
horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días, distinguidos delegados. Queda abierta la decimotercera Sesión Plenaria del Consejo. Ustedes recordarán que quedaron pendientes varios temas, el 7, que es el Proyecto revisado del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, y el 21, que es el Proyecto de Declaración sobre la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Como ustedes pueden ver, la intención es que las sesiones del Consejo en el tratamiento de su agenda terminen en el día de hoy, y espero que podamos cumplir nuestros trabajos, particularmente lo conferido por la 27ª Conferencia a este Consejo, en relación al Código de Conducta y a la Declaración de Quebec.

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

7. Revised Draft of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (continued)

7. Projet révisé de Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable (suite)

7. Proyecto revisado del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos delegados, como ustedes saben, respecto al tema 7 el Comité Técnico trabajó durante los cinco días de la semana pasada. El informe que yo tengo es que hubo avances importantes y le voy a pedir al Presidente del Comité Técnico que nos informe sobre el estado en que se encuentra la revisión del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable. Le voy a pedir, por tanto, al señor Jerónimo Ramos que pase al podium a presentar el informe de la reunión del Comité Técnico.

Jerónimo RAMOS SAENZ PARDO (Presidente, Comité Técnico): Muchas gracias señor Presidente, con su permiso. Señores delegados, señoras y señores, me permito presentar a ustedes el informe del Comité Técnico abierto del Consejo sobre el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, el cual se presenta en el documento CL 108/LIM/5. El Comité Técnico abierto constituido por este Consejo contó con la participación de 29 miembros de la FAO y un país observador. Esta Presidencia tuvo el apoyo de una vicepresidencia en la persona del señor Samuel Fernández de Chile; se contó con una amplia participación regional, así como con la participación de importantes organizaciones gubernamentales y no gubernamentales. Todos ellos trabajaron con gran espíritu y dedicación entre los días 5 a 9 de junio de 1995.

El Comité revisó en gran detalle el texto de los artículos 1 al 5, incluida la introducción que la Secretaría presentó conforme a las indicaciones del Grupo de Trabajo que se había establecido dentro del marco del COFI. El Comité también examinó, enriqueció y finalmente aprobó, los artículos 8 al 11, los cuales ya habían sido sujetos a revisión por las instancias precedentes, en sus reuniones previas. Así, el Comité Técnico inició la revisión del artículo 6, sin incluir aquellos párrafos marcados con asterisco. Algunos países expresaron su preferencia por hacer una revisión global del texto. A la luz de los progresos alcanzados, el Comité Técnico considera necesario celebrar una siguiente reunión de cinco días de trabajo efectivo del 25 al 29 de septiembre de 1995, con el objeto de poder concluir la revisión exhaustiva del Código, una vez que la Secretaría haya realizado la armonización lingüística y jurídica de los textos, que le ha sido solicitada, y que recoja los resultados de la última reunión de Nueva York de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas, sobre las Poblaciones de Peces cuyos Territorios se Encuentran Dentro y Fuera de las Zonas Económicas Exclusivas y las Poblaciones de Peces Altamente Migratorias, y, de necesitarlo, otra inmediatamente antes del Consejo, en octubre.

El Comité recomienda mantener la continuidad del Comité y la representación de los participantes con el objeto de preservar la dinámica de revisión y facilitar la conclusión de los trabajos.

En conclusión, el grupo endosó los artículos del 1 al 5, incluyendo la introducción, y los artículos 8 al 11 quedando para finalizar y endosar los artículos 6 y 7. El Comité destacó y agradeció asimismo la activa participación de los señores delegados y representantes de las organizaciones gubernamentales y no gubernamentales que concurrieron a sus sesiones, y agradeció a la Secretaría la calidad del trabajo realizado.

Este es un resumen, señor Presidente, de nuestro informe del Comité Técnico.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Presidente del Comité Técnico por este informe.

Consideramos que a la luz de lo acordado por el Consejo en relación a los términos de referencia del Comité Técnico que éste cumplió, por lo menos en términos generales, en abarcar los artículos mínimos que se suponía se revisarían en esta ocasión y que está preparándose una nueva reunión en septiembre con la finalidad de que, a la luz de los resultados de Nueva York, se concluya la totalidad de los párrafos que están todavía con asterisco de los artículos 6 y 7.

Como ustedes saben, distinguidos delegados, es importante, conforme al mandato de la Conferencia, que se logre el mayor avance posible para que este Código pueda ser presentado a la Conferencia para su aprobación. El próximo Consejo de la FAO, en octubre, revisará el resultado del trabajo del Comité Técnico, del 25 al 29 de septiembre, y enviará a la Conferencia en función de los avances logrados, el texto final del Código de Conducta.

Pregunto a ustedes, señores delegados, si tienen alguna observación respecto de los términos de referencia y de los trabajos del Comité, así como del Informe presentado por su Presidente.

Gian Paolo PAPA (European Community): As we already said during the meeting of the Technical Committee, the European Community and its Member States deeply regret that the Technical Committee did not discuss the paragraphs of the Draft Code marked with an asterisk and which, in fact, do not exclusively address the subject of straddling fish stocks and high migratory fish stocks.

We consider that it would have been useful to achieve progress on those paragraphs, given the little time we have to finalize the Code before it will be submitted to the Conference in October.

We are confident that consensus will be reached in New York and we are strongly committed to contribute to that end. In this case, we are optimistic that we will find the appropriate way to insert the results of New York into the Code.

We will soon meet again to finalize our work on paragraphs we have not yet dealt with. We believe that a consensus reached in New York will greatly facilitate such a task.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Alguna otra delegación desea hacer uso de la palabra? Veo que no, en ese caso: el Consejo toma nota de que un grupo de países consideraba la importancia de una revisión integral de todos los párrafos del Código de Conducta, con el propósito de lograr un mayor avance posible; sin embargo, a la luz de los debates y negociaciones en Nueva York, espera que el Proyecto del Código pueda terminarse en una revisión integral en el mes de septiembre, enviarse al Consejo en octubre y, finalmente, ser aprobado por la Conferencia en su 28° período de sesiones.

¿Algún otro comentario señores delegados? En ese caso el Informe del Consejo reflejará los avances alcanzados en la revisión del Proyecto del Código de Conducta e identificará, desde luego, el trabajo que aún queda por realizar y el hecho de que el Comité Técnico queda operativo y programado para una sesión del 25 al 29 de septiembre de este año, donde se espera terminará la revisión total del Código, a la luz de los avances en Nueva York.

Se concluye este tema, me queda simplemente agradecerle al Presidente del Comité Técnico y a quienes lo integraron, por el extraordinario avance realizado y en espera de que el Comité Técnico pueda concluir sus trabajos.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)**QUESTIONS DIVERSES** (suite)**OTROS ASUNTOS** (continuación)

- 21. Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO: Draft Declaration of Food and Agriculture** (continued)
- 21. Cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO: Projet de Déclaration sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture** (suite)
- 21. 50° Aniversario de la FAO: Proyecto de Declaración sobre la Agricultura y la Alimentación** (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Como ustedes saben el Consejo decidió constituir un Grupo de Trabajo abierto a todos los Miembros de la FAO para que facilitara las discusiones respecto de enmiendas adicionales que se ofrecieron con el propósito de armonizar las diversas posiciones. En trabajo de dicho Grupo estuvo vinculado a dos cuestiones fundamentales, como lo habíamos determinado, una de formato y otra de substancia.

Le voy a pedir al Presidente de dicho Grupo oficioso de trabajo, señor Thomas Forbord, que nos informe respecto de los resultados alcanzados.

Thomas A. FORBORD (Chairman, Working Group on Quebec Declaration): As indicated in the cover sheet, for the redraft of the Quebec Declaration, the Working Group met on Saturday. We spent most of the morning looking at the structure of the declarations in order to get the unanimous agreement of the group that we wanted a shorter, as some people put it, more ministerial declaration than the very long list that we had in the document circulated earlier in the week.

Having agreed on the structure, we spent all afternoon going through to put the substance into the statement. Those delegations that have done a close comparison of this draft and the material circulated last week will see that this is a condensation, with very little change in the substance of the draft circulated by the Secretariat. The Drafting Committee felt that it presented the material in a clearer fashion, one that our Ministers in Quebec are much more likely to be happy with. We hope the work of the Working Group meets with the satisfaction of Council.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Forbord, por la presentación de este punto tan importante y del nuevo texto del Proyecto de Declaración de Quebec. Yo he recibido información de algunos delegados que tendrían algún comentario ulterior, pero pregunto a ustedes si coinciden conmigo en que este Consejo pueda enviar este Proyecto de Declaración a la Conferencia a través de la Reunión Ministerial en Quebec.

¿Alguna delegación desea hacer observaciones respecto del Proyecto de Declaración para Quebec?

Toru TAKAHASHI (Japan): I would like to express great appreciation to Mr Forbord for his excellent Chairmanship of the Working Group meetings, and also to the Working Group itself for its efforts to make a new draft of the Quebec Declaration. After the Working Group meeting I sent the new draft to my capital and received instruction from my country to propose additional amendments to the text. Our first amendment is to add a new clause at the end of the fourth paragraph, which begins "Recognizing". Our proposed clause is "and that the population growth and economic development will bring an even greater demand for food". I will now read the whole of our proposed new paragraph: "Recognizing, nevertheless, that despite these advance, very many people still suffer from chronic undernutrition and lack the food needed for productive and active lives and that the population growth and economic development will bring an even greater demand for food" semi-colon. The reason for this amendment is that not only present circumstances but the future prospective should be recognized here.

Our second amendment is to add a new phrase after the end of the fifth paragraph, which begins with "Conscious of. Our proposed phrase is "and of the various facets of universal food security". I will read out the whole of our proposed paragraph: "Conscious of the multiple and indispensable functions of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and of the various facets of universal food security". The reason for this amendment is

that we must be conscious of the need for various issues related to food security in the world to be dealt with in various ways. For example, in some countries chronic hunger and malnutrition are the urgent issues; in countries such as some Asian countries population growth and the decline of domestic agriculture due to rapid industrialization are serious problems; in some countries, especially island countries, the sustainable use of marine resources is the main concern. These different issues should be addressed using different approaches.

Our third amendment is on page 2 in Section II in the fourth item to insert the word "various" before the words "unstable food supply conditions". I will read out the whole of our proposed item: "securing the supply of food to populations living under various unstable food supply conditions". The reason for this amendment is almost the same as the reason for the second one. It is very important to recognize that there are various unstable food situations throughout the world.

If these amendments are adopted, we will agree to the whole draft.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han escuchado ustedes, señores delegados, que la distinguida delegación de Japón propone tres enmiendas al texto, pero antes de considerarlas en su totalidad, voy a preguntarles si hay otros países que deseen hacer enmiendas. En ese caso que las presenten de una vez y luego iremos una por una dirimiéndolas.

Le doy la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Estados Unidos de América, pero le pido que si tienen alguna enmienda que hacer lo indique desde el inicio.

Ms Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): I very much want to thank the Working Group for their effort on this declaration. I think it is much improved. My comments regarding the text are more of a technical than a substantive nature. I think it is essential that this text conform insofar as possible to the terms of Agenda 21 and, therefore, where and how we use the term "sustainable" is very important. I am going to suggest inserting it in several places, particularly given the importance of the concept as set forth in Agenda 21, and especially given FAO's vital task manager role in sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management and sustainable fisheries.

In this regard, I would propose that the seventh phrase of the text should read: "Hereby declare that, in setting objectives for food, sustainable agriculture and rural development". That is an entire section of Agenda 21 which is under FAO's management and I think this clarifies that.

In paragraph I, I would suggest we say "sustainable economic development". I would suggest we use the term "sustainable management of land, forest, pastoral and aquatic resources".

Going down to paragraph IV, I suggest we say "Building a global sustainable development partnership" because this is spelled out throughout the principles of Agenda 21. Finally, in the second sentence of paragraph IV, I would suggest it should read "promoting dynamic partnership for sustainable development".

I believe these changes are fully consistent with the recent consensus document at Copenhagen, where we reshaped the language to include these particular points.

Beyond that, I would like to suggest that in paragraph I, where we talk about "enhancing the role of women", particularly given the attention of "focused in the United Nations system at the Beijing Conference in September", we might want to say "facilitating the equal participation of women in these sectors" or something like that.

I hope my amendments and comments are taken as I intended them, as technical solutions to a very much improved document, which I believe reflects the consensus of all the participants in the Working Group and, I hope, the Council.

I would like to say that I think the Japanese amendments are generally constructive but they are very complex and I would need to see them in writing. I particularly have some concern about "universal facets of food security"; I am not exactly sure what that phrase means.

Hyun-Woo CHO (Korea, Republic of): My delegation would like to associate itself with the opinion of my Japanese colleague that we consider inserting "various aspects of food security".

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Gracias señor Presidente. Al tiempo de agradecer la breve presentación realizada por el Presidente del Grupo, queremos hacer algunas consideraciones. Trataremos de ser breves, pero entendemos señor Presidente que ésta declaración se sale, o se saldrá, un poco del marco de nuestra esfera de acción, porque es una declaración que tiene que ser firmada por nuestros ministros. Y es una responsabilidad muy grande la que vamos a contraer para llegar a un texto que pueda ser factible de ser firmado por todas las partes.

Nosotros quisiéramos, señor Presidente, aunque sea muy brevemente también, hablar algo sobre lo ocurrido el pasado sábado con el Grupo que analizaba la declaración de Québec. No la trataremos aquí pues creo que se dedicó bastante tiempo, pero sí creo necesario señalarlo, reiterando que el método de procedimiento empleado no fue el apropiado. Esto fue reconocido por todos los presentes, unos por haberlo empleado y otros por haber acudido a esa reunión en pleno desconocimiento. Pero bien, lo que tuvimos que decir lo expresamos allí y en el espíritu de cooperación y entendimiento y, también, de paciencia, nos referiremos tan sólo al texto que tenemos delante en esta reunión.

Como habrán observado, en el texto solamente hay un corchete, que trata la palabra "político". Creo que ese fue un tema bastante debatido, bastante debatido. Permítame, señor Presidente, alguna reflexión sobre este particular. No me dejarán mentir los verbatim y, nos remitiremos a ellos, cuando creo que prácticamente la totalidad de todas las delegaciones aquí presentes han hablado de voluntad política, todas. - Tendrá trabajo el Comité de Redacción para señalar a cada una de las delegaciones - y la palabra "voluntad política" ha sido una cosa constante en todas las delegaciones.

Señor Presidente, tenemos delante de nosotros una carta enviada a la Directora Ejecutiva del PMA, nada menos que por el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas y por el Director General de la FAO. Permítame señor Presidente que yo le lea nada más como comienza. Dice esta carta - que nos fue entregada a todos en la última reunión del CPA -: "la coexistencia del hambre", - y repito -, "la coexistencia del hambre con la capacidad de acabar con ella es una de las contradicciones más grandes de nuestro tiempo. El mundo produce lo suficiente para alimentar a su población. El problema no es técnico, es político y social; es un problema de acceso a los suministros alimentarios y de su distribución y, sobre todo, es un problema de voluntad política." Esto lo dice la máxima dirección del sistema de Naciones Unidas, el señor Boutros-Ghali y nuestro Director General de la FAO, el señor Jacques Diouf.

Sencillamente, como este es un documento que va a ser también discutido en Quebec, y va entre corchetes, sencillamente que vaya y que se diga que nosotros no tuvimos la voluntad política para decir "voluntad política".

Y quería dar esta explicación, señor Presidente, para que se conozca, en principio, porqué mantenemos lo que dice aquí, nuestro apoyo político.

EL PRESEDENTE: Gracias distinguida delegación de Cuba. El Consejo ha tomado nota de las razones por las cuales se encuentra entre corchetes la palabra "político" en el texto de la Declaración.

Xigui ZHANG (China) (Original language Chinese): The Chinese delegation would first of all like to thank the Working Group that discussed the text of the Quebec declaration. The Working Group did a good job following assiduous efforts by others and has provided us with a very succinct document for our consideration, a document which covers all the areas of agriculture and agricultural economy.

In principle, we agree with Annex A which is included in document CL 108/LIM/6 and we also agree with the opinion of the Japanese delegation and I quote "the population growth and economic development will bring an ever greater demand for food". At one and the same time, Sir, and in that same paragraph the word "malnutrition" should be changed to "nutritional insufficiency".

EL PRESIDENTE: Perdón, distinguido delegado de China, ¿se refiere usted a una "insuficiencia nutricional crónica"? El párrafo comienza: "reconociendo, sin embargo...". ¿Es ahí?

Xigui ZHANG (China) (Original language Chinese): Yes.

Igor Nikolaus MARINCEK (Observer for Switzerland): First of all, Mr Chairman, I would like to say we are very satisfied with the much improved text. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr Forbord, for his insistence on having a short text.

Like Japan, I have one amendment on the fourth paragraph which starts with "Recognizing". In this paragraph we recognize basically the failure to solve problems or fulfil the goals which are enumerated in the second paragraph and which are the goals we share and which we also find in the preamble of the Constitution of FAO.

One failure with regard to goal number 4, the conditions of rural populations and the failure to improve the conditions of rural populations, leads and continues to lead, to a strong pressure for rural exodus. I would like to make the following proposal: to add to this paragraph beginning "Recognizing", perhaps after the Japanese amendments which records the population growth, "and that difficult rural conditions continue to push rural exodus".

I have a third point to make. I would like a little clarification on the first process in this matter. I understand that the Council will have approved the text and that then most probably the Director-General will send this to the governments for final comments which will then lead to the last round or directly go to Quebec and there clarify the final differences.

Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso): Ayant participé à la préparation de ce document au sein du groupede travail, ma délégation a le plaisir d'apprécier le contenu et la forme du document final. Toutefois, j'aimerais faire trois observations. La première concerne le paragraphe commençant par "reconnaissant". Dans le texte français on parle effectivement de "sous-nutrition chronique". Des amendements ont été proposés à ce niveau, et ma délégation pense qu'en ce qui concerne la traduction française, le terme de sous-nutrition n'est pas approprié, il faut plutôt parler de malnutrition. Nous préférons donc les termes suivants: "malnutrition chronique" en tenant compte des autres amendements.

Au paragraphe suivant qui commence par "réaffirmons" j'ai suivi l'intervention du délégué de Cuba sur le terme [politique], il est clair que ce terme-là a constitué un blocage au niveau des travaux du groupe de travail et il convient de dire ce que nous en pensons. Ma délégation estime que ce terme-là ne devrait pas être inséré entre crochets. Les explications du délégué de Cuba sont tout à fait claires et nos ministres sont là pour réaffirmer leur volonté et leur appui politique.

Pour terminer, à la page suivante, le point II commence par "déléguer des pouvoirs aux producteurs". Il s'agit là encore d'une question de traduction française et nous souhaiterions que ces termes "déléguer les pouvoirs" soient remplacés par "renforcer ou promouvoir la participation des producteurs" car le pouvoir est en réalité entre les mains des producteurs et il n'est pas question de déléguer un pouvoir quelconque. S'il est question de déléguer un pouvoir cela signifie que ce pouvoir existe ailleurs. Cela ne concerne pas les producteurs dans leur dimension.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): I will be very brief. First of all, since I participated in the discussions of the Working Group I very much appreciate the work done under the leadership of Mr Thomas A. Forbord and Ambassador Salah Hamdi.

Mr Chairman, secondly I would like to support the proposal made by the Japanese Delegation and also the Cuban Delegation.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je commencerai par m'excuser d'avoir pris le train en marche au cours des débats sur ce projet auquel nous avons participé. Je tiens à rendre hommage à notre Président pour être parvenu à sortir un document qui est apprécié par la majorité des Etats Membres ici présents. J'aimerais vous poser une question relative à la procédure. Les différents amendements qui ont été proposés sont-ils considérés comme étant acceptés ou feront-ils l'objet d'une discussion? A ce propos, je souhaiterais que le Secrétariat fasse un récapitulatif des amendements proposés de façon que nous ayons un tableau complet de ces amendements. Certains de ces amendements posent des problèmes à ma délégation et j'aimerais connaître leur formulation définitive afin de pouvoir réagir.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de Camerún, eso se va a hacer y lo tenía yo planeado, pero primero quiero escuchar cuáles son las diversas propuestas para entonces determinar el curso de acción inmediato a seguir. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de México.

José ROBLES AGUILAR (México): Gracias señor Presidente. Mi delegación quiere hacer referencia al quinto párrafo preambular del texto de Declaración, en concreto a la palabra "político", que está actualmente entre corchetes. Nosotros, en el Grupo de Trabajo, apoyamos la inclusión de esta referencia porque consideramos que en una declaración de un nivel ministerial debe haber una referencia explícita a un apoyo de esta naturaleza. Muchas gracias señor Presidente.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I have not asked for the floor, but I will take it anyway. I should like, as others have, to thank our Chairman for the scrupulously fair way in which he ran a most efficient proceeding and helped us to produce a text which, I think, most of us had accepted when we left the room on Saturday. We now have some changes that may be problematic for some, partly because I think the true intent and meaning of the words are not clearly understood, and perhaps we need a process to reconcile these.

I would simply make one comment in particular, and that relates to the question of the paragraph 5 that Mexico has just spoken to. And I think that it is important to reflect that, in qualifying the support that we provide to FAO in this particular declaration, I think we are implicitly suggesting that unless this type of political support, however one defines it - and it's difficult to have, I think, a clear understanding of its true meaning - is not present unless it is actually stated, and I think that is not the intent.

I think this gathering itself is representative of this type of support, and all the actions that we take collectively as members of the international community implicit to them have this type of support. Consequently, I believe that to give a true sense of the commitment, it is better to speak of our full support of the FAO in all of its facets rather than simply focusing on one.

Mansour Mabrouk SEGHAHER (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Sir. At the outset, I should like to thank the open-ended working group for the excellent work it has carried out and for this concise declaration before us. My delegation would like to support what has been said by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Cuba, as to paragraph 5.

Since, as you know, Mr Chairman, this declaration will be adopted by ministers, and ministers are politicians, thus we have to be very clear. Their meeting is political first; political second.

Ab. Ghaffar A. TAMBI (Malaysia): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor. My intervention on this subject will be very, very brief.

Mr Chairman, like the other speakers before me, my delegation wishes to express our appreciation to the working group for the tedious effort undertaken in coming up with the present draft in front of us. My delegation recognizes the importance of the declaration, especially the four cardinal principles as contained therein, to which we in the world community at large need to give due emphasis, in our effort to ensure and promote global food production and food security.

Mr Chairman, my delegation also wishes to join our Korean, Chinese, and Indian colleagues in expressing our support for the additional amendments for the draft declaration as proposed by Japan, for we feel that these additional amendments further strengthen our commitments towards the concept of global food security.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de Malasia. Con esto termina mi lista de oradores respecto de estos puntos. Veo que hay otras delegaciones que desean hacer uso de la palabra, les pido que de una vez se manifiesten. Tengo a Australia y Tailandia. ¿Hay alguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra?

Les pido que no toquen ya temas de procedimiento porque eso lo resolveremos en otro momento, simplemente cuestiones relativas al texto.

Kevin O'BRIEN (Australia): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Yes, I do not want to comment on the various suggestions we have heard so far this morning. I did certainly want to offer our support and congratulations to the Chairman in running our working group on Saturday and to note the very excellent job that he and the other members of the working group have done.

I would want to make just one comment in support of one of the suggestions from the Delegate of Japan in that we think it is important to have a reference in this document to universal food security. We do not want to get into drafting suggestions at this stage, but the amendment we would suggest to the paragraph beginning "conscious of," is "and the desire for universal food security." So it would read "conscious of the multiple and indispensable functions of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and the desire for universal food security."

EL PRESIDENTE: Disculpe distinguido delegado de Australia, ¿la enmienda adicional de Japón que habla de las diversas facetas o aspectos de la seguridad alimentaria, la incluiría usted inmediatamente después? Es decir, su sugerencia es: ¿"y del anhelo de una seguridad alimentaria universal en sus diversas facetas o aspectos"? ¿Es ésa su propuesta?

Kevin O'BRIEN (Australia): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Our reference is an alternative formulation for the reference to universal food security because we feel that in these paragraphs we are making a series of affirmations rather than referring to technical facets, etc. At a ministerial level we believe we should affirm the desire for universal food security.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor delegado de Australia. Tomo nota de que la propuesta australiana para este párrafo es sustitutiva de la del Japón. Tengo, por último, a la distinguida delegación de Tailandia.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand): Thank you, Mr Chairman. My delegation, too, would like to express our appreciation to the members of the working group, especially the Chairman of the working group, Mr Forbord. We believe this Quebec Declaration is short and precise, which is in line with the Council's intention. With regard to the suggestions made by our colleague from Japan, my delegation welcomes and supports the additional amendments in paragraphs 4 and 5.

One more point, Mr Chairman. On page 4, under II, the first item starting with "recognizing the importance of farmers, fishers, and foresters in society and the economy," I would like to seek the clarification on the definition of "fishers," and "foresters." Probably, the Chairman could explain to us these two words.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado de Tailandia. Distinguidos delegados, ustedes han podido escuchar que hay adiciones, cambios sugeridos al texto. Antes de darle la palabra al Presidente del Grupo de Trabajo deseo expresar lo siguiente: en primer lugar, que sea reconocida la valiosa labor de la presidencia del señor Forbord llevando adelante un proyecto que prácticamente está terminado. Yo siento, distinguidos delegados, que las propuestas que se han formulado aquí y que los apoyos que han recibido están

cerca de lograr un consenso. Es importante que tomen en cuenta que este Consejo ha recibido un mandato para finalizar un proyecto de declaración, que se transmitirá a la Conferencia a través de la Reunión Ministerial en Quebec, y es importante, en consecuencia, que establezcamos un mecanismo que nos asegure cumplir con este trabajo.

Las diversas formulaciones por ustedes propuestas creo que se pueden dirimir y sobre el problema de procedimiento podríamos hablar en un momento. Antes de hacerlo, le voy a pedir al señor Forbord que reaccione a las enmiendas que ustedes han propuesto y que nos explique la forma en que éstas, u otras, fueron tratadas. Una última cuestión. Me parece que existe consenso respecto a la primera cuestión que yo había enunciado, que es la del formato. Este texto, como ustedes saben, es mucho más reducido que el anterior, mucho más conciso, y en ese sentido no he escuchado a nadie que tenga ninguna objeción, por tanto, en principio del debate interpreto que el formato está aprobado. Tiene la palabra el señor Forbord para reaccionar al debate.

Thomas A. FORBORD (Chairman, Working Group on Quebec Declaration): Thank you, Mr Chairman. According to the list that I was keeping, we have fifteen amendments. They are all, I think, constructive. They are all technical, or most of them are technical. I think, from the tenor of the discussion that we had on Saturday and this list of amendments that we have now, I think we can probably approve most of them relatively quickly at this meeting.

There were some questions that were asked, and I will try to clarify those. First of all, I want to thank the distinguished Ambassador from Cuba for explaining the bracket. Several delegations who were not members of the working group asked me this morning if that was a bracket from the United States - as the United States of America appears not to be able to give full financial support to the Organization, was it asking for a declaration that would oblige it to give only political support? - and I explained that it was not a US bracket. That has now been explained by Mexico. Let me explain, from the discussion of the working group, many delegations, most delegations felt that to put any limit on our support would limit our support and that political support was only one of the many types of support that the Members wanted to give to the Organization and that for that reason the support should not be qualified.

We also have a question from Thailand on the meaning of "fishers" and "foresters." The meaning that we took, not explicitly during the debate, but that those are "workers involved in that industry." A fisher is not necessarily the person who only pulls the net and drives the boat but is a person involved in the fisheries industry, and the same for a forester. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Forbord, por sus aclaraciones. Distinguidos delegados, creo que estamos cerca de un consenso. Sin embargo, varios de ustedes han pedido tener este grupo de enmiendas a la vista en un papel, en blanco y negro, para ser estudiadas y cotejadas. Yo sé que podríamos hacer ahora el ejercicio de que ustedes tomen nota, que las veamos una por una y quizá lleguemos a algún acuerdo, pero tal vez una manera más expedita de hacerlo, y más ordenada, sería que el Grupo de trabajo lo convoquemos esta tarde; que cuente ya con un texto de la Secretaría con todas estas enmiendas; que lo estudie y que lo presente mañana al adoptar nuestro Informe. Yo creo que ésta es una propuesta más ordenada, pero, desde luego, estoy en sus manos y podríamos empezar a ver las enmiendas una por una ahora.

El Grupo de trabajo, en caso de que decidamos que continúe laborando, podría comenzar a las dos y media, tendría interpretación hasta las cinco y media y se reuniría en la Sala Malasia. Distinguidos delegados, les pregunto a ustedes si hay alguna objeción respecto de las múltiples enmiendas aquí presentadas. Simplemente quiero saber si hay alguna objeción. Veo que no hay ninguna objeción, lo que facilita la posibilidad de llegar a un consenso rápido. Voy a dar la palabra a tres delegaciones que me la han pedido, los Estados Unidos de América, el Reino Unido y Burquina Faso.

Ms Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): Mr Chairman, this is not really to raise objections at all, because I think your method of proceeding, particularly reconvening the Working Group, is ideal.

It is important in the case of some of the amendments that we understand what is meant by the proposed language. For instance, in the case of terminology such as "universal food security" the United States of America routinely has a preference for "global food security". We think that there is a difference in terminology here and we need to be sure that we are using words which are understood by everyone.

I have already mentioned my reservation relating to the second Japanese amendment. Although I think that all these amendments are constructive and to the point, I think that the Working Group might be the place at which to work them out.

Beyond that, I believe that all the Council delegations have a commitment to achieving as clean and effective a text as possible. However, as many delegations have said, this is going to be a political document. My Minister of Agriculture has not looked at this and it is very hard to say absolutely that there might not be nuances that we might want to come back to the Working Group on. Perhaps there should therefore be a short fixed procedure for ministerial or policy comments from governments as we finalize this text after the Council.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguida delegada de los Estados Unidos de América, antes de reaccionar a su planteamiento voy a pasar la palabra a la distinguida delegación del Reino Unido.

Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I think your proposal of reconvening the Working Group is a useful one. However, I think that we are going to have to work to a very clear instruction. All those of us who participated on Saturday in the Working Group know the amount of work and extensive argument that went on there. I do not think we want to open up all that again and I think we should have clear instructions that we are there to attend solely to those amendments that were proposed during this Council.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguida delegada, en un momento también voy a reaccionar a su punto de vista. Tiene la palabra Burquina Faso y a continuación Cuba. Les pido que las declaraciones que emitan quienes desean hacer uso de la palabra hagan contribuciones adicionales y no repitan lo que ya ha sido expresado.

Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso): Monsieur le Président, je ne veux pas répéter ce qui a été dit; je m'apprêtais à dire quelque chose de différent au sujet de votre proposition. Mais nous pensions que nous sommes déjà proches de prendre une décision finale car personne n'a d'opposition de fond aux amendements. Le Conseil pourrait examiner très rapidement les différentes propositions et arriver à une conclusion. C'est ce que nous avons l'intention de déclarer. Mais je suis prêt à m'allier au consensus qui s'est dégagé suite à votre proposition.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Gracias, señor Presidente. Una pregunta y un comentario muy breve. Cuando el Grupo de Trabajo del que nosotros formamos parte vayamos a reunirnos, como dijo la distinguida Representación del Reino Unido tiene que tener muy claro este debate y tiene que tener muy claros la respuesta y el respaldo que han tenido cada una de las propuestas realizadas. Yo creo que debe ser un mandato que le debemos dar al Grupo de Trabajo, es decir que refleje el respaldo que hayan tenido las propuestas por parte de este Pleno del Consejo.

El comentario, señor Presidente, es que, sinceramente, a nosotros nos satisface que una propuesta cubana se haya interpretado como una propuesta de los Estados Unidos. Yo creo que eso es muy positivo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, distinguido Delegado de Cuba; creo que hay ciertas convergencias positivas en todo esto. Distinguidos delegados, la propuesta es la siguiente. En primer lugar, el Grupo de Trabajo se reunirá hoy por la tarde, desde las 2 y media a las 5 y media. El Grupo de Trabajo tomará en cuenta el debate sostenido en el Consejo y se limitará a discutir exclusivamente las enmiendas o adiciones que se

presentaron durante el debate en el día de hoy. Estas enmiendas estarán contenidas en un documento que preparará la Secretaría, donde se indicarán las mismas. El Grupo de Trabajo va a revisar el texto y hacer las aclaraciones pertinentes respecto de conceptos y notas sobre las palabras y terminología utilizada; el Grupo de Trabajo remitirá el Proyecto al Consejo el día de mañana, que es el día de la adopción del Informe, para su adopción, y este texto se enviará posteriormente a los Estados Miembros con suficiente antelación -tres meses antes de la reunión de Quebec-, con el propósito de que, a través de ella, se transmita a la-vigésimo octava Conferencia de la FAO.

Si no hay ninguna objeción para que se lleve a cabo esta propuesta de la Presidencia Independiente del Consejo, así se adopta. Se convoca entonces el Grupo de Trabajo a las 2:30 en la Sala Malasia.

Thomas A. FORBORD (Chairman, Working Group on Quebec Declaration): I just want to raise a point of clarification. After we send this text to our Ministers, what will we do if they come back and ask for further changes between now and October?

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Forbord. Como ustedes saben, es el Consejo el que tiene que remitir este texto a la Conferencia. Como no va a haber ninguna otra reunión del Consejo antes de la reunión ministerial de Quebec, no podrá ser el Consejo el que lo envíe. Hay, por tanto, una posible solución, que es instruir al señor Director General para que reciba esas ulteriores adiciones, modificaciones u observaciones de los Estados Miembros, y que sea el Director General el que, a la luz de ellas y de los debates sostenidos en el Consejo, produzca un nuevo proyecto de declaración. Sin embargo, distinguidos delegados, yo pienso, y creo que es el sentir de este Consejo, que se ha llegado ya a un acuerdo, a un consenso general respecto, en primer lugar, del formato, en segundo lugar sobre la mayor parte de los párrafos en éste contenidos y, en tercer lugar, y quizás lo más importante, sobre la sustancia. Creo, por tanto, que las modificaciones adicionales serán estrictamente de matiz, y por ello no representarán un problema a la hora de la adopción de la declaración por la reunión ministerial.

No creo que podamos volver a empezar todo el procedimiento y no creo que debamos tampoco dejar abierto el Grupo de Trabajo para que revise estas nuevas indicaciones de las capitales. Hay además, conforme al reglamento de la FAO, una fecha límite, que es el 15 de julio, es decir a un mes de distancia, para enviar este texto; por eso es por lo que, distinguido señor Forbord, esas enmiendas deberían recibirse antes de ese tiempo límite.

Me ha pedido la palabra para hacer una aclaración y no para oponerse al procedimiento, el Observador de Suiza.

Igor Nikolaus MARINCEK (Observer for Switzerland): Mr Chairman, I have a request for clarification. Did I understand that it is not in Quebec that the text will be adopted but just at the Conference ? I am not very clear about this question. Who is going to adopt it?

EL PRESIDENTE: Usted, puede leer en el texto del CL 108/LIM/6 último párrafo: "Esta declaración fue aprobada por los ministros y plenipotenciarios de los Miembros de la Organización de las Naciones para la Agricultura y la Alimentación que se reunieron el 16 de octubre de 1995 en la ciudad de Quebec, Canadá, para conmemorar el cincuentenario de la fundación de la FAO, y formalmente adoptada por la Conferencia de la FAO en su 28º período de sesiones, celebrado en Roma". Creo que esto responde a su petición.

Bien, distinguidos delegados, si no hay otra cuestión, este tema lo concluiremos mañana al adoptar nuestro informe.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)**QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES** (suite)**ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS** (continuación)**20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters** (continued)**20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques** (suite)**20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos** (continuación)**20.2 Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees****20.2 Modifications de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier****20.2 Cambios en la representación de Estados Miembros de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you Mr Chairman. The document CL 108/INF/10 is for information. It deals with changes in the representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees, since the Council last met in November 1994. There were two changes, one in each Committee.

On the Programme Committee, His Excellency Moorosi Vernet Radatipole, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lesotho to FAO, replaced His Excellency Gerard Phirinyane Khojane as the Lesotho Representative. On the Finance Committee, Mr Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali Harbi, Counsellor (Agricultural Affairs) and Permanent Representative of Sudan, replaced Mr Gamal Mohamed Ahmad as the Sudan Representative.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias por la introducción de este tema. Como ustedes podrán observar es para información. Pregunto si hay alguna observación de parte de los miembros del Consejo. Si no la hay el tema 20.2 queda concluido.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)**QUESTIONS DIVERSES** (suite)**OTROS ASUNTOS** (continuación)**22. Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 1994-95****22. Calendrier révisé des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions importantes****22. Calendario revisado para 1994-95 de los períodos de sesiones de los Organos rectores y otras reuniones principales de la FAO**

EL PRESIDENTE: Pasamos al tema 22: Calendario revisado para 1994-95 de los períodos de sesiones de los Organos rectores y otras reuniones principales de la FAO. Tienen ustedes el documento CL 108/15. Les recuerdo que desde que se envió el documento han tenido lugar algunos cambios. En primer lugar el 81° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas terminó el 24 de abril de 1995, el período de sesiones actual del Consejo se ha reducido por dos días para que termine el 14 de junio. Se somete el documento para su aprobación.

¿Hay alguna delegación que desee hacer uso de la palabra? Creo que no. Considero, entonces que el Calendario queda aprobado.

23. Date and Place of the Hundred and Ninth Session of the Council**23. Date et lieu de la cent neuvième session du Conseil****23. Fecha y lugar del 109º período de sesiones del Consejo**

EL PRESIDENTE: Como ustedes pueden observar, las fechas del próximo período de sesiones de nuestro Consejo serán del 18 y 19 de octubre de 1995 y, desde luego, se celebrará en Roma.

¿Alguna objeción? Si no la hay, así se aprueba.

24. Any other business**24. Autres questions****24. Otros asuntos**

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Alguna delegación desea intervenir?

Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España): Durante el 106º período de sesiones de este Consejo, celebrado entre el 30 de mayo y el 1º de junio pasado, año 1994, mi delegación hizo una propuesta concreta sobre la que quisiéramos volver a insistir.

Me refiero a la recomendación a la FAO de utilizar exclusivamente papel reciclado en los documentos, comunicaciones, publicaciones, etc., que se elaboran en la misma.

Entendíamos en aquel momento y seguimos entendiendo ahora, como es lógico, que éste sería un gesto ejemplarizante y consecuente con la creciente preocupación de la FAO por la sostenibilidad de los recursos naturales, y que posteriormente debería extenderse al resto de los organismos de Naciones Unidas.

Ahora bien, algunos de estos organismos o programas, ya se han adelantado y han iniciado acciones en este sentido. Me refiero al Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) que ya desde hace algunos meses observo que su revista "Opciones" la imprime utilizando este tipo de papel, tal y como se indica en su primera página que literalmente dice "Impreso en papel reciclado exento de cloro, con tintas vegetales, y producido mediante una tecnología compatible con el medio ambiente".

Parece lógico entender esta medida como un gesto mínimo de la FAO si queremos predicar con el ejemplo, y que se debería dar a conocer a la opinión pública en uno de los comunicados informativos que periódicamente emite la Organización.

No parece consecuente, señor Presidente, que estemos hablando permanentemente en este foro de la sostenibilidad de los recursos, y no tomemos ninguna medida en aquellos asuntos que son de nuestra competencia y que podrían tener ese carácter ejemplarizante de que hablábamos anteriormente.

Por último, quisiéramos poner de manifiesto, como ya hicimos el año pasado, que teniendo en cuenta el enorme volumen de papel que consume esta Organización, y que de alguna manera todos sufrimos, creemos que esta medida habría que considerarla algo más que un gesto.

Esperamos, señor Presidente, que esta iniciativa cuente con el apoyo de los distintos miembros del Consejo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente, distinguido delegado de España, recordamos que anteriormente usted había hecho esta propuesta ante una reunión del Consejo y que su interés es que no se quede en el aire, sino que se lleve a cabo. Considero que independientemente de las cuestiones técnicas que ello implica no habría ninguna objeción para que el Consejo pudiera proponer una política de este tipo.

Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil): The proposal we heard is a very interesting one and there are very positive aspects on that. My delegation feels that it may have some very serious economic implications as far as international trade is concerned. So we see this as a very delicate matter. We are sure we are in a condition to propose that this be further examined but we are not in a condition to support the recommendation that the Organization should utilize only recycled paper.

Toru TAKAHASHI (Japan): I would just like to take this opportunity to refresh everybody's memory regarding the International Conference on Sustainable Contributional Fisheries to Food Security which will be held in Kyoto this December, from the 4th to the 9th, which is repeatedly announced by our delegation, including on the occasion of COFI.

I also would like to ask you to give your attention to this very important Conference as we believe this International Conference is also one that gives very important input to the World Food Summit especially in the field of fisheries. Now I would like to ask the Secretariat to distribute a very brief information paper on this Conference which was distributed also during the Session of the last COFI Meeting.

José ROBLES AGUILAR (México): Simplemente, señor Presidente, para compartir la preocupación expresada por la delegación española. Sería conveniente que la FAO siguiera este proceso que otros organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas han iniciado en cuanto al uso de papel reciclable. Tendrían, desde luego, que analizarse las implicaciones financieras pero consideramos que esta medida sería lógica y coherente con los temas de sustentabilidad en los que está fuertemente involucrada nuestra Organización.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay dos propuestas aquí, una de parte de la distinguida delegación de España que se va a transmitir como un estudio para que la FAO instrumente la acción de utilización de papel reciclado en la Organización, considerando las implicaciones tanto de carácter financiero como de carácter técnico en su elaboración. La segunda es que se distribuya una nota informativa sobre la reunión que se va a celebrar en Tokio, Japón.

Distinguidos delegados, con esto se concluye la agenda de nuestro Consejo; queda pendiente la adopción de nuestro informe. Creo que hemos terminado con mucha mayor antelación de lo que preveíamos al principio de nuestro período de sesiones, quizá esto representa un cambio importante en las actividades y el papel del Consejo. El Consejo se está convirtiendo cada vez más en un órgano ejecutivo que intermedia entre las conferencias y que permite, efectivamente, el llevar a cabo, instrumentar decisiones y darle a la FAO la vitalidad que merece para enfrentar y afinar sus políticas y actividades a las circunstancias del momento.

Señores delegados, si no hay ninguna otra observación, voy a declarar esta decimotercera sesión terminada.

The meeting rose at 11.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 horas.

14 June 1995



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eighth Session • Cent huitième session • 108º período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMOCUARTA SESION PLENARIA

14 June 1995

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.30
hours Mr José Ramón López Portillo,
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 30
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la decimocuarta sesión plenaria a las 10.30
horas bajo la presidencia del señor José Ramón López Portillo,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días distinguidos Delegados, declaro abierta la 14ª Sesión Plenaria del Consejo para la aprobación de su Informe. Espero que todos hayan tenido tiempo, primero de descansar, y luego de leer el texto y reflexionar sobre él. A petición de varias delegaciones pospusimos el inicio de nuestro trabajo hasta estas horas.

Distinguidos Delegados, como ustedes recordarán hay todavía un tema de la Agenda que quedó inconcluso, y es el Tema 21, relativo al Proyecto de Declaración de Quebec. Ustedes recordarán que el Grupo de Trabajo Oficioso, abierto a todos los miembros de la FAO, tuvo una sesión el día de ayer por la tarde y llegó a algunas conclusiones. Voy a pedirle, por tanto, al Presidente de dicho Grupo de Trabajo que informe al Consejo sobre las conclusiones alcanzadas.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)

QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

21. Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO: Draft Declaration on Food and Agriculture (continued)

21. Cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO: Projet de Déclaration sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture (suite)

21. 50º Aniversario de la FAO: Proyecto de Declaración sobre la Agricultura y la Alimentación (continuación)

Thomas A. FORBORD (Chairman, Working Group on Quebec Declaration): Thank you, Mr Chairman. As requested by the Council yesterday, the Working Group on the Quebec Declaration met yesterday afternoon to consider 12 amendments that had been proposed during the Council session in the morning. At the end of our session yesterday afternoon, we had resolved by consensus how to deal with all of those amendments. They were mostly adopted. They were largely technical amendments that improved the text, and we return to the Council an unbracketed text that has been agreed by the Working Group. As is always the nature of a working group such as this, there are changes, improvements, that some preferred and others did not. What we have here is a text that we all agreed on yesterday afternoon.

The Working Group also came together to agree on a recommendation to the Council on the next steps that will be taken, and that we propose to the Council, and this decision is contained in CL 108/REP/11, which also has the text of the revised Quebec Declaration. The recommendation that we hope the Council will approve after it approves the text today is that the draft be immediately submitted by the Director-General to all member countries and that he invite member countries, if they feel it absolutely necessary - after the 18 months of work that have gone into this document and the previous many opportunities they have had for comment - if absolutely necessary, that they respond to the Director-General in writing with any further comments by 7 July.

The text that you have before you indicates 30 June. The Secretariat feels that if those responses arrive by 7 July, they can still meet the deadline for circulating to all governments before Quebec.

Just a clarification: In the draft report, at the end of the sentence I just referred to where the date is changed, to clarify who is doing what, the sentence should read "to prepare a final version for despatch by the Director-General by 15 July".

Our recommendation, so that we can have a text that is agreed by member countries, is that the Working Group remain available, if necessary, to deal with any comments that come in from member countries and that we would, in the Working Group, with delegated authority from this Council, produce the final text which the Director-General will submit to all countries.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Forbord, creo que el Consejo debe felicitarle a usted y al Grupo de Trabajo Oficioso abierto, por la labor realizada y por habernos presentado un texto sin corchetes y, por la propuesta de que en caso necesario este Grupo se vuelva a reunir. Es decir, quede operativo. Veo que usted desea hacer algunos comentarios ulteriores. Le paso la palabra al señor Forbord.

Thomas A. FORBORD (Chairman, Working Group on Quebec Declaration): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I would like to point out a phrase that did not get into the French version. I have checked all five versions and this affects only the French version.

In the Declaration portion - and in French this is on page 3, under Roman numeral I, the first tick - after the words "l'emploi rural", should be the phrase "améliorer les conditions des populations rurales". That phrase is contained in the other four languages already. That is language that was agreed by the Working Group but just did not get into the final text. Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Forbord. Espero que los países francófonos hayan tomado nota de ello y estén conformes con el texto. Antes de ofrecerles la palabra para finalizar este tema, deseo recapitular las recomendaciones que estamos haciendo. En primer lugar, el Consejo dejaría el Grupo de Trabajo Oficioso abierto a todos los miembros, operativo, para que en caso necesario y a la luz de los comentarios recibidos de las capitales, revisen el texto de declaración y, a través del Director General lo envíen a Quebec, al 50° Aniversario de la FAO, y de ahí sea transmitido a la 28ª Conferencia para su aprobación.

Esas son las recomendaciones y las decisiones que tendría que tomar este Consejo. Pregunto entonces, en primer lugar, respecto de la recomendación, o más bien, la decisión de que el Consejo instruya al Grupo de Trabajo a quedar operativo para que en caso necesario vuelva a reunirse a la luz de las aclaraciones o enmiendas de las capitales, ¿si hay alguna oposición u objeción a ello?

No la hay. Entonces el Consejo instruye al Grupo de Trabajo para que quede operativo en caso necesario y vuelva a reunirse antes del 15 de julio.

En segundo lugar, se está recomendando como fecha límite para enviar observaciones respecto del nuevo texto de Declaración, el 7 de julio. ¿Hay alguna objeción a ello?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

EL PRESIDENTE: En tercer lugar, se determina que el 15 de julio el texto final del Proyecto de Declaración se enviará, a través del Director General a la reunión ministerial de Quebec y de allí transmitida a la Conferencia de la FAO, en octubre. ¿Alguna objeción?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Ahora, les pregunto distinguidos Delegados, si tienen alguna otra observación que hacer respecto del texto mismo del Proyecto de Declaración.

No la hay, y en ese caso vamos a adoptar desde ahora los dos párrafos del REP/11, párrafo 1 y 2, junto con el apéndice allí incluido, en las páginas 2, 3 y 4. Así se decide y cerramos también con ello el Tema 21 de nuestra Agenda. Y me permito agradecerle, de nuevo, al señor Forbord y al Grupo de Trabajo, por la magnífica labor realizada.

Distinguidos Delegados pasamos ahora a la aprobación de nuestro Informe.

Antes de comenzar el procedimiento le voy a ofrecer la palabra a la Presidenta del Comité de Redacción para que nos explique la forma en que trabajaron, la estructura, el formato y el contenido del Informe.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Gracias señor Presidente. Señoras y señores Delegados, el Comité de Redacción trabajó durante cuatro sesiones para presentar el Informe que ustedes tienen en sus bancos. En esta ocasión el Comité de Redacción convino en una nueva

modalidad en la presentación del Informe, en base a algunas recomendaciones expresadas por algunos delegados al comienzo de las deliberaciones, el resumen que hizo el Presidente del Consejo y las recomendaciones y directivas que dio en esa ocasión y, además, la vía ya demostrada exitosa con los informes de algunos comités de productos y del Comité de Programas de Productos Básicos que, se habían presentado de una manera sintética, concisa y mucho más atractiva según la opinión general de los delegados. En esta ocasión, entonces, tratamos de hacer un informe como decía, preciso, conciso, que evitara los complementos calificativos como por ejemplo: "extraordinario", "fuerte apoyo", "por unanimidad", que creemos que no agregaban nada a las decisiones, y que el documento se centrara fundamentalmente, en las decisiones que habían tenido consenso en el Consejo, evitando hacer un resumen de los debates. Como ustedes recordarán, en otros Comités de Redacción el resumen de los debates y la discusión sobre si habían sido "la mayoría", "algunos miembros", "unos pocos miembros", "otros miembros" llevaba mucho tiempo de las tareas del Comité de Redacción y, lo que es peor, daba como resultado una síntesis que era el producto de una negociación y que a veces no reflejaba fielmente la tónica de los debates. Creemos que de esta manera los verbatim retoman su rol fundamental de ser la fuente indiscutible de los debates, reproduciendo todas las opiniones que se vierten en el Consejo, inclusive las minoritarias y eventuales reservas.

Con esa intención hemos trabajado. Quiero aclararles que esto no quiere decir que estemos completamente satisfechos del trabajo, lejos de ello, en varias ocasiones tuvimos dudas sobre la utilidad y la eficacia de nuestro "approach". Y estamos dispuestos a oír todos los comentarios y sugerencias y algunas críticas que los miembros tengan con respecto a la modalidad de presentación que hemos convenido para este Informe, en el entendido que tanto las observaciones que ustedes expresen, así como nuestro trabajo, estarán guiadas por las mismas intenciones, es decir, tener un informe claro que permita una comprensión inmediata de las decisiones fundamentales y una visión clara de las orientaciones adoptadas en cada Consejo; sin perjuicio de invitar, después, a recurrir a los verbatim a la excelente documentación técnica que prepara la Secretaría antes de las reuniones para concretar nuestro panorama.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguida señora Di Giovan Battista, Presidenta del Comité de Redacción, por esta exposición de motivos sobre la forma en que se condujeron los trabajos y las conclusiones del Comité de Redacción.

Para proceder a su aprobación, distinguidos delegados, yo les propondría que vayamos sección por sección; es decir, yo preguntaría si una sección completa tiene alguna objeción; en caso de que no sea así, se aprobaría en su totalidad. Luego pasaríamos a la siguiente sección y en caso de que haya alguna objeción preguntaría yo tema por tema, respecto de sus comentarios sobre el texto. Una vez que lo indiquen ustedes así, procederíamos entonces párrafo por párrafo. Este procedimiento lo hemos utilizado en ocasiones anteriores y ha sido de utilidad, en cuanto se han acelerado los trabajos de la aprobación del Informe.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Alguna observación respecto al REP/1?

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 6 to 8

PARAGRAPHES 6 à 8

PARRAFOS 6 a 8

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Presidente, Comité de Redacción): Gracias señor Presidente. Señoras y señores Delegados, el Comité de Redacción trabajó durante cuatro sesiones para presentar el Informe que ustedes tienen en sus bancos. En esta ocasión el Comité de Redacción convino en una nueva modalidad en la presentación del Informe, en base a algunas recomendaciones expresadas por algunos delegados al comienzo de las deliberaciones, el resumen que hizo el Presidente del Consejo y las recomendaciones y directivas que dio en esa ocasión y, además, la vía ya demostrada exitosa con los informes de algunos comités de productos y del Comité de Programas de Productos Básicos que, se habían presentado de una manera sintética, concisa y mucho más atractiva según la opinión general de los delegados. En esta ocasión, entonces, tratamos de hacer un informe como decía, preciso, conciso, que evitara los complementos calificativos como por ejemplo: "extraordinario", "fuerte apoyo", "por unanimidad", que creemos que no agregaban nada a las decisiones, y que el documento se centrara fundamentalmente, en las decisiones que habían tenido consenso en el Consejo, evitando hacer un resumen de los debates. Como ustedes recordarán, en otros Comités de Redacción el resumen de los debates y la discusión sobre si habían sido "la mayoría", "algunos miembros", "unos pocos miembros", "otros miembros" llevaba mucho tiempo de las tareas del Comité de Redacción y, lo que es peor, daba como resultado una síntesis que era el producto de una negociación y que a veces no reflejaba fielmente la tónica de los debates. Creemos que de esta manera los verbatim retornan su rol fundamental de ser la fuente indiscutible de los debates, reproduciendo todas las opiniones que se vierten en el Consejo, inclusive las minoritarias y eventuales reservas.

Con esa intención hemos trabajado. Quiero aclararles que esto no quiere decir que estemos completamente satisfechos del trabajo, lejos de ello, en varias ocasiones tuvimos dudas sobre la utilidad y la eficacia de nuestro "approach". Y estamos dispuestos a oír todos los comentarios y sugerencias y algunas críticas que los miembros tengan con respecto a la modalidad de presentación que hemos convenido para este Informe, en el entendido que tanto las observaciones que ustedes expresen, así como nuestro trabajo, estarán guiadas por las mismas intenciones, es decir, tener un informe claro que permita una comprensión inmediata de las decisiones fundamentales y una visión clara de las orientaciones adoptadas en cada Consejo; sin perjuicio de invitar, después, a recurrir a los verbatim a la excelente documentación técnica que prepara la Secretaría antes de las reuniones para concretar nuestro panorama. Gracias señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. El Consejo ha tomado nota.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, première partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT - DEUXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 6

PARAGRAPHE 1 à 6

PARRAFOS 1 a 6

Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, on page 1 paragraph 6, I feel that we have not captured what a number of members have suggested. The sentence reads, "the Secretariat was encouraged to seek inputs from these Groups in preparing the draft texts and making the arrangements". This refers to the inclusion of international organizations, NGOs and the private sector in preparation for the World Food Summit. It was not just the preparation of the drafts of the texts but including and consulting people about the arrangements for the World Food Summit.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguido Delegado del Reino Unido. ¿Tiene usted una redacción concreta que nos pueda proponer al Consejo?

Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom): What I was proposing was that in paragraph 6 there should be added to the last sentence, "and in making arrangements for the World Food Summit".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Muchas gracias, hay alguna objeción a la inclusión de esta adición? No la hay, por lo que queda aprobada.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, deuxième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART III

PROJET DE RAPPORT - TROISIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III

PARAGRAPH 1

PARAGRAPHE 1

PARRAFO 1

Patrick PRUVOT (France): A la deuxième ligne de l'alinéa c) du paragraphe 1 de la version française du Rapport de la vingtième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, il est dit: "la sécurité alimentaire universelle". Il me semble que, pour être en harmonie notamment avec le texte de la déclaration qui va être soumis à Québec et ce qui a été dit lors du débat, il faudrait parler de "la sécurité alimentaire globale". C'est le terme que nous avons retenu.

A la fin du même alinéa, il est dit: "qui bénéficie d'une assistance intégrale de la FAO à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire". Le mot "intégrale" me semble peu approprié; il laisserait entendre qu'il n'y a rien d'autre que l'assistance de la FAO. Il est donc peu approprié, en français au moins - je ne connais pas la version anglaise.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguido Delegado de Francia, siento que es un problema que se refiere al texto en lengua francesa. En español por lo menos, dice "seguridad alimentaria mundial", y respecto de la asistencia dice "toda la gama de asistencia". Creo que podemos armonizarlo conforme a la versión inglesa y española, de tal suerte que en francés quede como usted lo ha propuesto.

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 2 to 3

PARAGRAPHERS 2 à 3

PARRAFOS 2 a 3

Patrick PRUVOT (France): A la dernière ligne de l'alinéa c) du paragraphe 2, qui traite du Rapport de la soixantième session du Comité des produits, dans la version française, il est dit: "pour les programmes d'activités de l'Organisation faisant suite au Cycle d'Uruguay, qui a été établi par le CP".

Il faudrait précéder l'antécédent de "qui", en français, et faire l'accord convenable parce que, telle que la phrase est construite, le "qui" peut représenter trois choses: soit les principaux domaines, soit les politiques nationales, soit la liste des activités. Je pense qu'il faudrait être plus précis dans la rédaction française de ce texte en se reportant effectivement aux débats. Que recouvre ce "qui"? Qu'est-ce qui a été établi effectivement? Il faut le préciser.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí. Le voy a pedir al señor Hjort que nos aclare este punto.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am not certain that I understand the point. If the Representative of France is asking that the areas identified in paragraph 33 be listed, there was a long discussion in the Drafting Committee. I think all he is suggesting is that the English text uses "the main areas" and that apparently the French text uses a different terminology. Is it a matter of simply bringing the French text into conformity with the English text?

Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I think the same problem exists in the English text. There is a phrase at the end, "as identified by the CCP". I believe the question from France is, does that apply to high priority actions or does it apply to the Organization's post-Uruguay Round Programmes or does it apply to both of these? The application of that phrase is not clear.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think the problem may be that we have the phrase "as identified by the CCP" twice and the second phrase should be struck out. I think that would take care of it. It is just an editing problem. We had this in a slightly different formulation and when it was reformulated to put "as identified by the CCP" in front, the last phrase did not get deleted. I think it would take care of the problem if we leave "the period after the post-Uruguay Round Programmes" and deleted the rest.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Hjort. Creo que de esta manera se aclaran las dudas. La recomendación es, pues, que se elimine la última frase del párrafo C. ¿De acuerdo? Si no hay objeciones, así se decide.

Paragraphs 2 to 3, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 2 à 3, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 2 a 3, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, troisième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, quatrième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT - CINQUIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 6

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 6

PARRAFOS 1 a 6

Gian Paolo PAPA (Observateur de la Communauté Européenne): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente; es un pequeño matiz al párrafo 5, cuarta línea, en el que se dice: "A fin de completar la revisión detallada del Código. Quisiera que dijera: "de todos los artículos del Código". Es un pequeño matiz que creo que no creará problemas al Comité de Redacción del Consejo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguido Representante de la Comunidad Europea. Yo no sé si al respecto tiene algo que decir la Presidenta del Comité de Redacción. No sé si esto había sido ya decidido y, por omisión, se excluyó.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Gracias señor Presidente. Efectivamente, ayer la Comunidad Europea propuso este agregado, pero como luego se propusieron otras enmiendas, se había decidido a última hora de la noche no reabrir la discusión sobre el Informe tal como se lo había preparado por la Secretaría, en el entendimiento de que había sido el Informe tal como lo había preparado o elevado el Comité Técnico, y por eso quedó esta propuesta de la Comunidad Europea excluida de esta revisión; pero efectivamente no había habido oposición ninguna en el Comité de Redacción, cuando la Comunidad Europea propuso esta enmienda.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Pregunto primero. ¿Hay alguna objeción a la inclusión de la adición de la Comunidad Europea en el párrafo quinto, tercera línea "a fin de completar la revisión detallada de todos los artículos del Código".

José ROBLES AGUELAR (México): Gracias, señor Presidente, nos parece que la propuesta planteada por la Comunidad Europea altera el sentido del Comité Técnico reflejado en el Informe que presentara ayer su Presidente a este Consejo. Este grupo endosó varios de los párrafos del Código de Conducta; si hay esta referencia se estaría dando una muy diferente interpretación a él. Mi delegación propone que, consecuentemente, el párrafo quede en la forma actual. Creo que esto refleja fielmente el acuerdo al que llegó el Grupo de Trabajo y que, vuelvo a repetir, está incluido en el Informe de su Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguido Representante de México. Deseo recordarle que este párrafo no se refiere al Informe del Comité Técnico; se refiere a una expectativa, la expectativa de que se revise en su integridad el Código. Si ustedes así lo interpretan, les podría volver a preguntar si ¿hay alguna objeción para su inclusión?

Ms Turid J. KONGSVIK (Norway): First of all, I apologize because we were on the Drafting Committee but our understanding was that we were not going to reopen the discussion; that is why we did not go into the discussion in the Drafting Committee when this was proposed. I understand that we cannot accept the addition proposed by the Commission; this was not agreed in the Committee and adding something here would break the Agreement.

Furthermore, in paragraph 6 there is reference, I think even Mexico mentioned this, to the point of view of some countries that they have preferred a global review so that would seem to cover the Commission's concern also.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): Since I believe the Council did not get into a detailed discussion on this particular item but rather adopted the Report of the Technical Committee, I believe it is most appropriate for the Report itself to reflect what that Technical Committee said, and I believe that the new words as indicated by the Representative of Mexico would change the meaning that is contained in the Report of the Technical Committee. So, I would agree with the previous two speakers that we leave the text as is.

Atul SINHA (India): Just one point. You might recall that when the idea of setting up this open-ended Technical Committee was made, an assurance was given that, because there were delegations that did not have a technical staff on their side to participate in the delegations, an assurance was given that while the delegations have been made here, the nations would be free to make such additional comments as they might like to make as soon as possible, maybe in a few days or so, and as soon as they get their views from their capitals. Now, I thought that that kind of a thing could probably come up in some way or other in order to ensure that those comments could still be made in a few days. Could you suggest some formulation which would take into consideration that assurance which you had kindly given to us?

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por su observación. Distinguidos delegados, creo que éste es un tema muy claro. Tenemos un mandato de la Conferencia -y se lo había observado así a los inicios de los trabajos de este punto- de terminar la revisión total del Código de Conducta para transmitirlo a la Conferencia. Yo no observé en los debates que hubiera objeción a que esto se realizara. Por razones de procedimiento, y en espera del término de las negociaciones en Nueva York, se decidió que los artículos entre corchetes o con asterisco, quedarían pendientes de una revisión final para lo cual se dejaba operativo el Comité Técnico, que celebrará una reunión del 25 al 29 de septiembre de este año, y transmitirá sus resultados al Consejo. Lo que aquí se está diciendo es que ese Comité Técnico deberá terminar con la revisión total del texto del Proyecto del Código de Conducta. Yo no creo que pueda haber ninguna objeción a que eso ocurra, pero la forma en que debe redactarse está en sus manos. Yo propondría que se diga "a fin de completar la revisión integral o total del Código", si ustedes no quieren hablar de "todos los artículos del Código", es decir "revisión total del Código", porque es la única forma en que el Comité Técnico puede transmitirle al Consejo sus resultados finales, y éste a la Conferencia. ¿Hay, por tanto, alguna objeción a que se diga "a fin de completar la revisión integral o total del Código"? ¿Hay alguna objeción? No observo ninguna objeción. Entonces se diría: "a fin de completar una revisión total del Código". Bien, señores delegados, así se adopta.

Paragraphs 1 to 6, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6 así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 7 to 11

PARAGRAPHERS 7 à 11

PARRAFOS 7 a 11

Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil): Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, I would like to thank the Drafting Committee for its work and most especially its President, Ms Di Giovan Battista. We are quite sure they have worked very hard and we know they have before them very difficult options as to the format and as to the content of the Report.

They allow us, Sir, to make some very general comments and constructive ones about this Report. We have been somewhat surprised to find that, as a matter of fact, the Report could reflect the better way - the richness of the discussions we have here - it should also reflect the various tones and undertones of the debate. In doing so the Report could be a very useful document, a guide for the Secretariat and for other Members of the Council on the way they should proceed in their work. We do feel, Sir, that for the next Councils we should adopt maybe a middle tone, not to have only a catalogue of decisions as we tend to have and not to have, of course, some bulky repetition of the debating but to have a middle tone in which the tones and undertones, the various currents and the currents of the Council could be reflected. After that, Sir, my delegation would like to make some very brief comments and propose some amendments to the Report on Item 8.

The first amendment we would like to propose is in paragraph 8, and that should be that we include - the last line after "International Tropical Timber Organization" - the words "and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and others".

The other amendment we have to propose, Mr Chairman, is on paragraph 10. The first one would be on line 2 that would be to include after Agenda 21, the words "within the United Nations system".

The second amendment, Mr Chairman, would come after the word "and", also in the second line and it would be "as requested by the CSD", so as the text would read "the Council requested FAO to continue its role as Task Manager for Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 within the United Nations system and as requested by the CSD to participate fully".

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias delegado del Brasil. Usted ha formulado un planteamiento de carácter general y tres propuestas. Yo propondría que ese tema interesante que usted ha tocado, el primero de ellos lo tratemos simplemente en forma general, al final de la revisión de nuestro informe. Yo entiendo perfectamente bien que éste es un primer tentativo para conducir nuestro informe a una forma más ejecutiva y si me permite usted, ese planteamiento general que usted ha hecho lo podríamos tocar al final de nuestros debates sobre la aprobación del Informe.

Respecto de la primera observación que ha hecho usted en el párrafo 8, someto al Consejo la misma. Repito en el penúltimo renglón después de: "Organización Internacional de las Maderas Tropicales" (OIMT), se agregaría: y la Comisión sobre Desarrollo Sostenible y otros Organos. ¿Alguna objeción? Se incluye.

Respecto del párrafo 10, ha hecho usted, distinguido delegado, dos propuestas, una en el segundo renglón, después de "Capítulo 11 del Programa 21", que se agregue: dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas. Luego, a continuación: y como lo solicita la CDS, que participará plenamente en la labor. ¿Alguna objeción a estas dos adiciones al texto?

Perdón, creo que es un problema de traducción: solicita, "request".

Paragraphs 7 to 11, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 11, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 11, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part V, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, cinquième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte V, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VI

PROJET DE RAPPORT - SIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 7

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 7

PARRAFOS 1 a 7

Patrick PRUVOT (France): Je voudrais faire simplement une observation de détail du paragraphe 3. Lorsqu'on traite de la collaboration au sein du système des Nations Unies, pour la clarté du texte français, il faudrait après le verbe ajouter "aussi". Il faudrait donc lire: "Le Conseil a demandé que les futurs rapports sur ce point traitent aussi de la coopération avec les organisations régionales...".

EL PRESIDENTE: Pregunto al Consejo si hay alguna objeción para que se incluya la palabra "también", después de: informe sobre este tema, se incluyera también la cooperación con organizaciones regionales.. ¿Alguna objeción? así se aprueba.

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

Paragraphs 8 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 10 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VI, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, sixième partie ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria así enmendado, Parte VT, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - SEPTIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VII

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 8

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 8

PARRAFOS 1 a 8

Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil): I would like to propose some amendments which would, in our view, make some points more clear. The first amendments which we propose would be in the third line of paragraph 3 after "'Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture'" and would be to include the following words: "On a step by step basis beginning with animal genetic resources".

The second amendment we would like to propose is in the seventh line of paragraph 3 and would be to replace "a step by step approach" with: "a gradual and cautious approach".

The third amendment we would like to propose is also in the seventh line of paragraph 3, and would be to replace the words "In the absence of" with the following text: "Although there was a general support towards intergovernmental instead of technical working groups, there was no general consensus" and then the sentence would continue in the same way.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Quería, señor Presidente, aclarar al Consejo y al delegado del Brasil en particular, que su propuesta con respecto a la tercera enmienda, fue ampliamente discutida en el Comité de Redacción. Estaba en el proyecto de informe original presentado por la Secretaría y no obtuvo consenso en el Comité de Redacción. Por eso resulta el actual texto con respecto a la tercera enmienda.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy a pasar a la primera propuesta de Brasil, que se refiere a la primera oración del párrafo 3 donde se alega en una base escalonada comenzando con los Zoogenéticos. Pregunto al Consejo si tiene alguna objeción para que se incluya.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On this particular point, it was proposed in the Drafting Committee that "a step by step approach" be added to the end of the first sentence rather than where it appears. The reason for moving it into the second sentence is that the first sentence deals with the broadening of the mandate. It was our understanding that the Council is recommending that Conference agree to the broadening of the mandate, and the new mandate would include fisheries, animals and so forth. However, the implementation of that broadened mandate would be on a step by step basis, taking animal resources first. This is why it did not seem to fit to include "a step by step approach" at the end of the first sentence as there was total agreement that the mandate would be broadened. The question now is how does one implement that broadened mandate? I think there is universal agreement that animal resources be first and that it be through a step by step approach. That is why we ended up with "a step by step approach" at the end of the second sentence. I wanted to explain that.

EL PRESIDENTE: A la luz de las observaciones del señor Hjort, me pregunto si el distinguido delegado del Brasil podría aceptar que la frase por él propuesta pase o se exprese en la segunda oración del párrafo 3.

Marco Antônio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brasil): We thank Mr Hjort for the clarification. Our main preoccupation here is just to indicate that the Council has agreed on the broadening of the mandate of the Commission but it has also agreed that we should begin with animal genetic resources as a first step. I have no opposition to the proposal of Mr Hjort to keep "a step by step approach" at the end of the sentence if we can add to that "beginning with animal genetic resources".

EL PRESIDENTE: Les podría, entonces, proponer, como lo ha planteado el delegado de Brasil que al final de la segunda oración se diga: y aconsejó que todo el proceso se realice por etapas comenzando con los recursos zoogenéticos. ¿Sería aceptable?

Bien, distinguidos delegados, hay una enmienda que ha sido aprobada para este párrafo. Pasemos ahora a la segunda. La segunda propuesta indica que a pesar de que hubo un apoyo general para aplicar un enfoque intergubernamental, etc., en la tercera oración.

Hemos escuchado a la Presidenta del Comité de Redacción al respecto. Hubo un debate importante en el Comité de Redacción, pero yo me pregunto si el Consejo estaría dispuesto a apoyar la propuesta de la delegación de Brasil.

¿Hay alguna objeción para que se incluya ésta?

Pedro MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile): Mi sugerencia, señor Presidente, es si usted me podría repetir exactamente cuál es la propuesta. Reconozco que no entendí la primera parte de la intervención de la delegación de Brasil. En que consistía exactamente la propuesta, la tercera enmienda.

EL PRESIDENTE: La tercera enmienda se refiere a la tercera oración del párrafo 3 y diría: a pesar de que hubo un apoyo general hacia un enfoque intergubernamental en los grupos de trabajo técnicos, no hubo consenso, etc.

No sé si la he leído correctamente, delegado de Brasil. Le voy a pedir a la Secretaria del Comité de Redacción que la vuelva a leer como la tomó en inglés.

Ms Miriam M. SAIF (Secretary of the Drafting Committee): It is the third sentence in paragraph 3 of REP/7 and the proposal is that it should read as follows: "Although there was a general support towards intergovernmental instead of technical working groups, there was no general consensus" and then it continues as already drafted, "on the nature and composition", etc.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción? Yo en mi resumen recogí el sentir del Consejo en ese sentido, pero pregunto si la redacción es aceptable.

Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America): I think the text that we have before us, long debated and carefully prepared by the Drafting Committee, accurately reflects the Council's discussion on this issue and that no change is needed in that text. We would oppose the change suggested by Brazil as not being an accurate reflection of our debate.

K. SHIMIZU (Japan): My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the United States of America. The paragraph as it stands fully reflects the discussion at Plenary.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy hacer referencia a lo que yo interpreté del resumen. Cuando lo resumí había indicado que había una posición mayoritaria respecto del apoyo a establecer grupos de trabajo intergubernamentales, en vez de grupos de trabajo técnicos, y advertí inmediatamente después, que no había habido consenso al respecto. Quizá podríamos utilizar una fórmula de este tipo, porque es importante distinguir entre las dos posiciones.

Es cierto, no hubo consenso; pero también es cierto que hubo un movimiento mayoritario hacia el primero. Pero, distinguidos delegados, para no complicar el debate, le pregunto al delegado de Brasil si coincide con el Comité de Redacción en que la formulación por ellos encontrada, tras un largo debate, quede como está aquí en virtud de que este informe es más bien indicativo de consensos y, por tanto, remite el detalle del debate a los verbatim.

Le pregunto si puede coincidir, por tanto, con la propuesta que nos hace el Comité de Redacción, o si tiene alguna otra que pudiera conciliar las diferencias.

Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil): As you will recall, Mr Chairman, we intervened on this item after your summing up to ask you to reflect the actual discussion that we had in Council. As a matter of fact, all the delegations who had comments to make on this item supported the governmental composition of these technical working groups. Just one delegation opposed the general feeling. We think it is very important to reflect the actual discussions we had here. We are not only registering decisions but giving guidance to the Secretariat as well as expressing points of view. I think we would be remaining faithful to the facts here if we said there was not consensus but the feeling of the Council was towards a governmental composition of these groups.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de Brasil. Ustedes recordarán también que cuando se discutió este tema y en mi resumen, hablaba no solamente del hecho, efectivamente, de que no había habido consenso, y del hecho de que había habido también una mayoría de países que se habían pronunciado en favor de la creación de grupos intergubernamentales, sino también, de los aspectos de carácter técnico y financiero de una u otra opción. En los verbatim se encuentran.

Pregunto, entonces, si podemos, en primer lugar, coincidir con lo siguiente: en primer lugar, no hubo consenso y este es el mensaje importante que está transmitiendo el Consejo a la Conferencia. Le está diciendo a la Conferencia: no hubo consenso respecto de este punto, discútelos y decídelo tú.

En segundo lugar, hubo efectivamente posiciones mayoritarias en favor de la primera solución, grupos intergubernamentales, y que yo recuerde, una sola en relación a la otra, apoyada, sin embargo - podríamos decir - en corredores, por algunos. De todas maneras en mi resumen no encontré que el Consejo se hubiera pronunciado claramente.

Les pregunto entonces, si no hubo consenso por parte de este Consejo y le estamos transmitiendo este hecho a la Conferencia, si no debe ser éste, justamente el punto principal de la oración. Y si el distinguido delegado de Brasil nos lo permite podríamos encontrar, o una nueva relación más afín a esta conclusión o dejar el texto como está. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Chile. Ojalá nos pueda ofrecer un texto que sea aceptable.

Pedro MÈDRANO ROJAS (Chile): Gracias señor Presidente, yo creo que nos encontramos en esta ocasión frente a una necesidad de reflejar en el Informe lo que efectivamente está ocurriendo: que hay respecto de este tema dos posiciones, o mejor, no hay acuerdo; hay dos criterios y, en tal sentido, yo apoyo la propuesta que usted ha formulado, señor Presidente, en el sentido de que se remita a la Conferencia, claramente, este tema, señalando que efectivamente no ha habido consenso respecto de este tema y que existen al respecto las dos posiciones, tal como se ha señalado. Creo que esa sería la fórmula.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Podíamos proponer lo siguiente, y ésta es una propuesta de la presidencia: "a falta de un consenso en cuanto a la naturaleza y composición de los grupos de trabajo respecto a los cuales muchos se pronunciaron, o la mayoría se pronunció, en favor de grupos intergubernamentales, y pocos, o algunos, respecto a la creación de grupos de trabajo técnicos, para realizar la labor preparatoria, etc., y debido a las consiguientes repercusiones presupuestarias, el Consejo remitió este asunto a la Conferencia". ¿Sería aceptable esto? Vuelvo a repetir: "a falta de un consenso en cuanto a la naturaleza y composición de los grupos de trabajo - y aquí viene mi adición - respecto a los cuales una mayoría se pronunció en favor de que fueran intergubernamentales y algunos que estuvieran constituidos por técnicos, para realizar la labor preparatoria de la Comisión ampliada, etc., etc. el Consejo remitió el asunto a la Conferencia". Esta es la parte importante de esta oración. ¿Alguna objeción?

Jerome T. KARUGABA (Uganda): Mr Chairman, I thought your summary was clearer than what was originally proposed. Secondly, we could keep the original summary - which had been agreed in the majority -but because there were a few who did not agree, therefore we submit it to the Council to decide, the idea being that the majority did agree with your summary. We wish to advise the Conference of the extent of the alternative view. We should submit it to the Conference on that basis. It is shorter and more precise.

Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America): We could accept your proposal, Mr Chairman, as I think it does clarify what the issues were about with one small change so that we do not give a greater impression than we should. There were, in fact, very few countries which spoke on this issue and you could just as easily say the majority did not support intergovernmental groups. Because there were so few countries who spoke on this, if you could just add "regarding which the majority of the several delegations which spoke on this issue".

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguido delegado, yo creo que complicaríamos un poco la redacción si lo planteáramos así. ¿Por qué no simplificamos aún más lo que he dicho?. Les propongo: "a falta de un consenso en cuanto a la naturaleza y composición de los grupos de trabajo respecto de los cuales la mayoría se pronunció por que fueran intergubernamentales, para realizar la labor preparatoria de la comisión ampliada, etc.".

Me dice el señor Hjort que les puede ofrecer una propuesta al respecto.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I intervene simply to suggest the amendment the Chairman has proposed comes after "broadened Commission" instead of after "Working Group". I think it would read better because then it would say "in the absence of a consensus on the nature and composition of the Working Group to do the preparatory work for the broadened Commission, although a majority favoured intergovernmental instead of expert group", and that would be the phrase that would be added. It is a simplified version.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Distinguidos Delegados, yo creo que tenemos que llegar a una conclusión de este punto y no darle más vueltas. Ustedes escucharon el resumen de los debates, a mí me pareció que era justo; la conclusión principal que estamos sacando aquí es, se la repito, que no se llegó a un consenso y que se remite este punto a la Conferencia. Está subrayada la palabra "se remite" a la Conferencia. Considero sin embargo, que es necesario que la Conferencia sepa que hubo una distinción mayoritaria respecto de los grupos intergubernamentales y una minoritaria respecto de los grupos de expertos. Quedando esto reflejado en esta frase, creo que todos podríamos aceptar que sea la Conferencia la que tome la última palabra.

Les pido que ya no agreguemos a la redacción. Si pudieran ustedes coincidir con la propuesta que he hecho o hubiera que modificar al final de la primera frase como lo ha propuesto el señor Hjort y, les vuelvo a repetir como quedaría. Voy a leer esto a velocidad de dictado. Tercera oración, párrafo 3: "a falta de un consenso en cuanto a la naturaleza y composición de los grupos de trabajo para realizar la labor preparatoria de la Comisión ampliada, a pesar de que una mayoría se pronunció en favor de que fueran grupos intergubernamentales más bien que grupos de expertos, y debido a las consiguientes repercusiones presupuestarias, el Consejo remitió el asunto a la Conferencia".

Me indica la intérprete, que la palabra "remitió" no está subrayada en inglés y en francés, sí lo está en español. Quizás deberíamos subrayarla también en los otros idiomas.

¿Tienen alguna objeción con esa redacción?

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I think we can capture the same meaning with more concise phrasing. If the issue raised by the Technical Group was actually related to the budget limitations; so if we can mention "although there was a favour to intergovernmental working groups due to so and so and so", I think this will capture the two views without mentioning that.

So it would read, "after broadening commission, although there was a favour, or some were in favour or support to intergovernmental working group, and due to the budgetary implication asserted to before the Council referred to", so this will short-cut the adding phrase but keeping the same meaning.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo no creo que esto lo haga más claro, porque las repercusiones presupuestarias se refieren en verdad a las dos posibilidades, a las dos alternativas: grupos técnicos y grupos intergubernamentales.

Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I do not want to complicate things. In principle, I can agree with your proposal as it was also mentioned by Mr Hjort, but I want to come back on one point, and that is using the expression "majority", because, I mean, a majority - you have to find out

whether there is one, and that was not the case. So you have two possibilities: either you take a text, like the US delegation has proposed, "the majority of those intervened in that point", or you leave out the question "majority", and say "several and few". Then you reflect really what happened. Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguida delegación de Alemania por hacerme esta observación. Veo que están alzando las banderas y no podemos posponer esta discusión más tiempo. Mi sentir en mi resumen fue que, efectivamente, una mayoría que es más de la mitad, se pronunció en favor de los grupos intergubernamentales. Yo escuché a una sola delegación hablar de ello, aunque reconozco que hay otras, que ahora se están manifestando, que apoyan esta posición. Precisamente porque lo sabía se lo indiqué, que en corredores había esta posición. Yo indiqué en mi resumen que no había consenso, pero al decir que no hay consenso se tiene que diferenciar también respecto de quiénes apoyan qué posiciones. No vi que nadie se opusiera al hecho de que mencionara yo en mi resumen una mayoría que favorecería los grupos intergubernamentales. Volvemos otra vez al viejo estilo de informe, donde se discute el término "mayorías", "muchos", "pocos", "varios", etc. Pero quizás no podemos salirnos de la palabra consenso, no podemos ser rehenes del consenso tampoco, por eso es importante también el primer planteamiento que hizo el distinguido delegado del Brasil. Lo importante de esta redacción, vuelvo a repetir, es que se remita a la Conferencia; no estamos condicionando a la Conferencia. La Conferencia va a poder terminar este asunto, de mayoría, minoría, con toda claridad, y va a poder, con toda seguridad, dar una recomendación al Director General en este sentido. Por esto es que la palabra "remitió", quizás debe subrayarse aquí. Les pido, en primer lugar, que acepten que en alguna parte de esta oración, como se redacte, se identifiquen las dos posiciones. ¿Alguna objeción con ello?

No hay objeción.

En segundo lugar, detecto entonces que el problema es respecto de indicar si se trata de una "mayoría", o una "minoría".

La redacción como la he propuesto es quizás aceptable, y si es así, les pido que me indiquen si están de acuerdo con que, en lo esencial, esa redacción que distingue entre "muchos", apoyado para un grupo intergubernamental y "pocos" o algunos, para un grupo de expertos. ¿Si esa redacción es aceptable para ustedes?

¿Alguna objeción, en principio, de que se distinga así el debate? Se opone el distinguido delegado de Australia.

Kevin O'BRIEN (Australia): Thank you, Mr Chairman. We would support your suggestion to perhaps return a little more closely to the proposal from the delegate of Brazil, rather than using the word "majority," to use the words "general support." This may help, given there is an absence of consensus, and given the matter is being referred, we do not need to debate to any extent how strong or how weak the majority was, given there was a limited number of delegates. So I think we could constructively return a little more closely to that wording, and that should solve our problem.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por su propuesta constructiva. Me parece que la Secretaría tiene una formulación que podría coincidir con ella. Le voy a pedir al señor Hjort que la presente.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: This alternative could read at the beginning - the amendment would be made at the beginning as was suggested by Brazil - "Although there was general support for an intergovernmental group to prepare the work for the broadened Commission, in the absence of a consensus on the nature and composition of the working groups and due to the budgetary implications associated thereto, the Council referred the matter to the Conference." You simplify it in a way, and you have general support there.

I will read it again if you wish: "Although there was general support for intergovernmental groups to prepare the work for the broadened Commission, in the absence of a consensus on the nature and composition of the working groups and due to the budgetary implications associated thereto, the Council referred the matter to the Conference".

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero, señores delegados, flexibilidad por parte de ustedes para llegar a un compromiso y no atrasar más nuestros debates. Es obvio que hay un grupo de países que considera importante reflejar lo que ocurrió en el debate y las diferentes posiciones; esto es un hecho y esto se va a reflejar en el Informe. Creo que estamos cerca de encontrar la redacción adecuada; si son ustedes un poco flexibles; quizá pudiéramos concordar con la propuesta que hace el señor Hjort, a raíz del planteamiento del distinguido delegado de Australia. ¿Pueden ustedes ayudarnos a coincidir conmigo?

Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique): Je serais d'accord avec cette proposition à condition que l'on enlève le mot "général" car dire qu'il y a un appui général et qu'il n'y a pas de consensus est une contradiction. Après "appui", on continuerait avec la phrase telle que proposée par M. Hjort. Je pense que nous pouvons l'adopter.

EL PRESIDENTE: Podríamos decir "aunque hubo un apoyo mayoritario". Bien. Es difícil cómo calificar el apoyo y luego decir que no hubo consenso. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de los Estados Unidos de América.

Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America): I would support the suggestion made by Belgium, contrary to the suggestion by Australia. To me, "general support" is even broader. It means "almost a consensus". It does not limit it, and I think the one thing that Mr Hjort left out was the identification of the other position, which could be added after the words "although there was support for intergovernmental groups instead of expert groups", and with the Belgian change and the addition of the identification of the other position, we are satisfied with that statement.

EL PRESIDENTE: Les propongo que rece así: "aunque hubo un apoyo de muchos países". Perdónenme ustedes, distinguidos delegados, pero escuché solamente un país que se pronunció a favor de la segunda, y escuché a muchos países; así lo indiqué en mi resumen, y ustedes no se opusieron a ello. Yo creo que es el mínimo compromiso aceptable a estas alturas: "aunque hubo un apoyo de muchos países a que fueran grupos gubernamentales en lugar de grupos de técnicos que integraran la Comisión ampliada...", etc., "a falta de un consenso en cuanto...". ¿De acuerdo, señores delegados? ¿Alguna objeción?

K. SHIMIZU (Japan): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am sorry to take the floor at this stage. My delegation can go along with the consensus of the house. However, I would like to make a clarification: the "referred" is still underlined? That is the point on which I would like to make a clarification.

Japan fully supports the approach adopted at this Council and associates itself with the previous speakers in this regard.

Why we are here? Why we get together here is to discuss on specific decisions, actions or recommendations, as such, based on the debate. In this respect, the report adopted just now is a very useful and action-oriented and contributive one.

We must keep this approach in the future, too. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Le voy a pedir al señor Hjort que nos vuelva a leer la oración; en el entendido de que ha sido ya aprobado, y en el entendido también de que la palabra "remitió", en la frase "remitió a la Conferencia", va a quedar subrayada.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you. As I have it, "although there was support by many members for intergovernmental instead of expert groups to prepare the work for the broadened Commission, in the absence of a consensus on the nature and composition of the working groups and due to the budgetary implications associated thereto, the Council referred (underlined) the matter to the Conference".

Paragraphs 1 to 8 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8 así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 9 to 12 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 12 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VII, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, septième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VII, así enmendado, es aprobado

Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America): I am not intervening on this issue, but I can't let the debate go much further before commenting on a remark you have now repeated, that in the absence of objections from the members, the Chairman's summary has some official standing in this body. It is my understanding that the Chairman's summary is only the Chairman's summary, and I really would not like to think that we have to watch every word that appears in that unofficial document and begin to raise objections after the end of your statement. Your statement is very useful in summing up debate, but I hope you really did not mean that you are inviting objections if we think you got a few words wrong in the debate.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor delegado de los Estados Unidos, por esa observación. Yo soy muy cuidadoso en mis informes, cuando además les advierto - y lo he hecho en todas las ocasiones - que no se convierten, desde luego, en una afirmación última que se le impone al Informe del Consejo, y para el caso al Comité de Redacción para su consideración; es, simplemente, una vía respecto de cómo se entiende o se interpreta el debate desde la Presidencia, pero en algunos casos, como en éste, creo que es importante referirme a dicho Informe para ayudarles a ustedes a llegar a alguna conclusión. No ha sido mi intención en el pasado, ni lo será en el futuro, imponerles las conclusiones y la redacción de mi resumen como punto final. No se preocupe usted.

DRAFT REPORT - PART VII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - HUITIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VIII

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VIII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, huitième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte VIII, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IX

PROJET DE RAPPORT - NEUVIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IX

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IX, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, neuvième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte IX, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART X**PROJET DE RAPPORT - DIXIEME PARTIE****PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE X**

Draft Report of Plenary, Part X, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, dixième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte X, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART XI**PROJET DE RAPPORT - ONZIEME PARTIE****PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE XI**

Draft Report of Plenary, Part XI, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, onzième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte XI, es aprobado

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de someter este tema a su consideración, voy a pedirle al señor Wade que haga uso de la palabra con el propósito de aclarar un punto relativo a las cifras presupuestales, en particular costos, sobre lo cual había habido alguna confusión.

T. WADE (Officer-in-Charge, Office of Programme, Budget & Evaluation): Mr Chairman, I apologize for taking the floor at this late stage of your meeting but I would like to make this short clarification. In my response to the debate on Item 16, I emphasized that the increase in assessments caused directly by the provision for cost increases was not 11.7 percent but only 4.6 percent, biennium over biennium and further that this represented about 3 percent per annum. I make this point because I had heard the increase of 11.7 percent being referred to as cost increases, and in my view the distinction is important. Unfortunately, some delegations seemed to understand my intervention in the context of a comment that had been made earlier by the Delegation of Brazil, when they indicated that the increase of 11.7 percent in biennial assessments spread over a six-year period was 1.8 percent per annum. In fact, it was not my intention to refer to that intervention and I wish to confirm that we agree with the calculations made by the Brazilian Delegation, and furthermore that we are grateful to them for making the point that the growth in assessments over the six-year period has in fact been very modest.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Wade, por esta importante aclaración. Pregunto a los distinguidos delegados si hay alguna observación.

DRAFT REPORT - PART XII**PROJET DE RAPPORT - DOUZIEME PARTIE****PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE XII****PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10****PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 10****PARRAFOS 1 a 10**

Jaime GARCIA BADIAS (España): Gracias, señor Presidente. Nuestra observación se refiere al Tema 16 respecto al punto 8. En el último párrafo creemos que hay un error gramatical, y no solamente en el texto español sino en los otros idiomas. Cuando se dice "los referidos Miembros propugnaron que se hiciera un examen vigoroso de las actividades...", creemos que lo correcto sería decir "riguroso" porque lo del vigor en las actividades no acaba de cuadrar.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado de España. Me parece que esta alusión se refiere solamente a la versión en español.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Etant donné que c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, je voudrais aussi féliciter le Comité de rédaction et, bien entendu, la présidente de ce Comité, pour le travail accompli.

Il s'agit peut-être d'un problème relatif à la rédaction française du texte, mais je voudrais que soit corrigé le paragraphe 6 de ce texte. La deuxième phrase de ce paragraphe se lit comme suit: "Ils ont indiqué qu'ils étaient prêts à envisager de nouveaux efforts visant à réduire les contributions par absorption des augmentations de coûts ou par des mesures supplémentaires d'économie". Je pense que ce ne sont pas les délégations qui sont prêtes à envisager de nouveaux efforts pour absorber les augmentations de coûts.

La phrase devrait donc plutôt être la suivante: "Ils ont indiqué qu'ils apprécieraient que le Directeur général fasse de nouveaux efforts visant à réduire les contributions par absorption des augmentations de coûts...". On demande donc au Directeur général de faire de nouveaux efforts pour réduire ou absorber les augmentations de coûts. Ce n'est donc pas la majorité qui est prête à envisager de nouveaux efforts; c'est plutôt la majorité qui demande au Directeur général de faire ces efforts.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí. Le voy a pedir al señor Hjort que aclare este punto, porque creo que es un problema de traducción.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I believe that the sentence could be misinterpreted. Perhaps it would be better to say, "They stated their readiness to consider further efforts by the Director-General to reduce assessments through some absorption of cost increases..." and so forth. The addition would therefore be "... by the Director-General" coming after the word "efforts".

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Quizás esto aclara el problema que tiene la delegación de Madagascar con esta oración, pero me hace notar también el señor Secretario General, que en francés se incluiría la palabra "considerar" que se traduciría, en consecuencia, en español y en inglés de la misma manera: "afirmaron su disponibilidad a considerar otros esfuerzos por el Director General". ¿Es eso lo que estaba usted planteando, no? Bien, en ese caso creo que es un problema que afecta solamente al francés, porque en inglés figura "considerar", efectivamente. Distinguido delegado de Madagascar ¿está conforme usted con la adición que propone el señor Hjort?

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): En fait, le français n'est pas ma langue, mais j'aurais préféré que l'on dise: "ils apprécieraient que le Directeur général fasse de nouveaux efforts..." parce que, lors du débat, nous avons encouragé le Directeur général à rechercher les moyens de réduire ces augmentations de coûts par absorption ou diminution. Mais si les francophones acceptent cette proposition, je n'y vois pas de problème.

Patrick PRUVOT (France): Je pense que l'on peut accepter entièrement la proposition que le Secrétariat vient de nous faire.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos delegados, les pregunto si hay alguna objeción para que se incluya la formulación presentada por el señor Hjort.

Srta. Virginia PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela): Quisiera, señor Presidente, que también en el texto español se cambiara "estudiar" por "considerar", porque en español está estudiar.

EL PRESIDENTE: Así lo había entendido yo, distinguida delegada de Venezuela.

Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique): Ayant participé au groupe de rédaction, je ne vais certainement pas ouvrir à nouveau la discussion, mais au paragraphe 9 j'ai un petit problème avec la traduction française. J'avais contribué à la rédaction de ce texte en anglais. Dans la deuxième partie de la phrase on parle en français d'"un nombre fourni de membres". En anglais, on avait parlé de "significant number". J'aurais préféré que dans la version française on mette "un nombre significatif de membres". Ce n'est pas une question fondamentale, c'est simplement une question d'accord des textes.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo, distinguida delegada de Bélgica, que esto se aplica al francés, puesto que en español la expresión sería correcta. ¿Alguna otra observación sobre el Tema 16?

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): In the first line of paragraph 8 where we refer to "the sharing of views of the former Group", I wonder if in fact we are not referring to the Group referred to in paragraph 7 and therefore "former Group" should read "latter Group".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo, distinguido Delegado del Canadá, que se refiere al inglés, y ha sido ya corregido.

Mrs Elena SUETT-ASKERSTAM (Estonia): I do not want to reopen the debate on Item 16 but I have a comment on paragraph 10. I am aware of the effort to make this report as succinct and skeletal as possible. However, we would have liked to see a little more meat on the bones of paragraph 10 in relation to the vital programmes of the Organization, such as TCP, the Least-Developed Food-Deficit Countries and EMPRES. Also, although I am aware that this was discussed in the Drafting Committee, I would have liked to have seen a reflection of the effective assistance to the fastest expanding sub-region of the world, which is ours. This is just a comment, not a wording change.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy a pedirle al Presidente del Comité que nos explique cómo llegaron a esta redacción sucinta.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Efectivamente, señor Presidente, como lo menciona la Delegada de Estonia, hubo también una larga discusión sobre este párrafo. En primer lugar, porque hubo una delegación que propuso una adición a la lista de prioridades. Una adición justificada desde mi punto de vista, a la lista de prioridades y, entonces, varias delegaciones comenzaron a señalar que la revisión ajustada de la lista de prioridades que debería figurar en este Párrafo 10, llevaría un exhaustivo análisis. Por lo cual, después de una intensa discusión se adoptó esta formulación que remite a las recomendaciones especificadas en el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, tal como han sido enmendadas por los Comités del Consejo.

Se refiere, fundamentalmente, a los Comités del Programa y Finanzas, pero no exclusivamente.

Esa fue la razón de esta formulación abreviada.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos Delegados, nos encontramos de nuevo ante un problema en donde si incluimos una observación, debemos incluirlas todas. Por tanto las ventajas y desventajas de un informe que sea particularmente ejecutivo. Si hemos acordado que, en principio, éste debe serlo, y si estamos remitiendo a los verbatim el debate, entonces una descripción detallada no vendría a cuento, no obstante, y quizá puede coincidir conmigo la Delegada de Estonia, en que al referirse a las recomendaciones específicas del resumen, como fueron enmendadas por los Comités del Consejo, se está, obviamente, incluyendo la recomendación del tratamiento y la asistencia particular a economías en transición.

Me pregunto si hay algún sentimiento fuerte por parte de los Miembros del Consejo en que se incluya la lista de puntos que se tocaron, que se recomendaron al respecto. En cuyo caso, les repito, seguramente tendremos que hablar de todos ellos.

¿Estaría usted de acuerdo, señora Delegada de Estonia, en que el párrafo al hacer referencia a ello incluye, obviamente, las consideraciones hechas por su país y otras economías en transición respecto a la importancia de la asistencia técnica, y por tanto, en dejar este párrafo como está?

Mrs Elena SUETT-ASKERSTAM (Estonia): I mentioned that I have no revised wording to suggest; I just wanted to make the point before the Council.

EL PRESIDENTE: En ese caso, distinguidos Delegados, vamos a concidir con el sentimiento general del Consejo de que este informe sea lo más ejecutivo posible.

Paragraphs 1 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part XII, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, douzième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte XII, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART XIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - TREIZIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE XIII

Ms Miriam M. SAIF (Secretary of the Drafting Committee): I have an announcement to make as refers to REP/13. In the English version, paragraph 3, as originally adopted by the Drafting Committee, has been omitted from the text you have before you. That paragraph should read "the Council agreed to forward the following resolution on the 1992-93 biannual accounts to the Conference for adoption". That should be included right before the Draft Resolution for the Conference on the Audited Accounts.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Han tomado ustedes nota? Me parece que afecta sólo a la versión en inglés. Les pido que tomen nota de ello.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part XIII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, treizième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte XIII, es aprobado

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores Delegados con esto hemos concluido la aprobación de nuestro Informe. Ustedes pueden observar que se ha llevado a cabo un cambio cualitativo en la forma en que este Consejo ha preparado y aprobado su informe. Es, desde luego, un primer intento y me parece que ha dado resultados correctos. Debemos felicitar por el trabajo realizado a la Presidenta del Comité de Redacción, a la Secretaria de dicho Comité y al Secretariado de la FAO por el apoyo que le dieron, y desde luego a los Miembros del Comité de Redacción por una labor bien hecha.

Veo que hay algunos delegados que desean hacer uso de la palabra.

Pedro MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile): Quisiera en primer lugar, señor Presidente, felicitar a la Presidenta del Comité de Redacción y a todo el Comité de Redacción por el excelente trabajo que han realizado. Creemos que han cumplido fielmente el mandato y han actuado dentro del espíritu en el cual este Consejo les encomendó la preparación de este Informe. En tal sentido reitero que nuestra Delegación considera que, habiendo, incluso, participado directamente en este Comité, que la experiencia ha sido positiva.

Tal vez, señor Presidente, podríamos considerarlo para el futuro, con el propósito de evitar las discusiones que hemos tenido en relación a un tema concreto, en que los informes pudieran también reflejar, no solamente los consensos, sino también, en el caso de que no existan consensos las distintas posiciones que se plantean. Creo que es justo que el Consejo recoja lo esencial de sus debates, pero que al mismo tiempo en este esfuerzo de síntesis y de acuerdo general, no pueden quedar excluidas de nuestros acuerdos oficiales las consideraciones o propuestas que no necesariamente alcanzan la mayoría o alcanzan un consenso.

Señalo esto, por una razón práctica, creo que de lo contrario este Consejo podría entrar en un camino delicado en el sentido de simplemente reflejar los acuerdos. Creo que el debate ha sido suficientemente rico, útil, productivo como para que también aquellas posiciones que no necesariamente tienen una mayoría o un acuerdo general, se puedan reflejar.

En tal sentido coincido de alguna forma con lo planteado por la Delegación de Brasil, pero reitero que nosotros hemos formado parte de este Comité, somos plenamente solidarios con este informe, y creemos que es el mandato que nos ha dado este Consejo. Simplemente lo señalo para el futuro y para que no entremos en un camino en el cual simplemente las actas y los informes de este Consejo reflejen los acuerdos o los consensos adoptados.

Salah HAMDI (Tunisie): Je voudrais intervenir sur la démarche à suivre pour la préparation des rapports des sessions, qu'il s'agisse du Conseil ou d'autres Comités directeurs. Bien sûr, nous sommes d'accord sur le principe de la concision, de l'efficacité, mais je crois que la flexibilité est de rigueur dans ce genre de travail et il faudrait que l'on trouve un juste milieu, une solution intermédiaire pour prendre la substance des débats, pour refléter les débats. Un rapport trop concis, une recherche poussée de la précision peut peut-être négliger certains aspects qui paraissent parfois importants pour certaines délégations.

J'avais des remarques à faire à propos de certains paragraphes, de certaines sections du rapport, mais pour me rallier au consensus je n'ai pas voulu prolonger le débat. J'aimerais m'arrêter en particulier sur un point que d'autres délégations ont soulevé dans le cadre de l'EMPRES. Il faudrait insister sur la proposition du Comité du Programme pour la création d'un fonds de réserve pour la lutte antiacridienne d'urgence et préventive. Ce genre de question nous paraît important et nous aurions souhaité que les débats soient reflétés dans le rapport.

Tout cela est donc pour le futur et nous aimerions bien qu'à l'avenir on recherche une solution intermédiaire entre la flexibilité et l'efficacité et la concision dans l'élaboration des rapports.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Permítame, señor Presidente, algunas breves consideraciones. Entendemos que en todas estas reuniones que comenzaron el pasado día 5 dentro de este 108° período de sesiones, se ha hecho realidad el verdadero espíritu de los organismos multilaterales que representan una política equitativa y transparente bajo su conducción, señor Presidente.

Dentro del concepto de la representatividad, el amplio y democrático debate pudo elaborar decisiones luego de oír las distintas posiciones, algunas preocupantes, pero con la esperanza de la solicitada reflexión. Los debates situaron posiciones, no coincidentes siempre, pero este choque de ideas siempre es favorable para el necesario equilibrio. En definitiva todo tomó un cauce, un camino bajo un espíritu constructivo, como era de esperar.

Hoy el documento final y su aprobación, es un reflejo de lo anteriormente expuesto y, una vez más, la elaboración y aprobación, incorporando los distintos matices, pero sin diferencia de fondo, otra vez confirma la necesidad del mantenimiento de los Comités de Redacción y reconocer su trabajo que ha facilitado el de esta Plenaria.

Independientemente de su funcionamiento interno, que solamente propone ganar en eficiencia, todo este elevado y constructivo esfuerzo realizado, entiendo resultaba necesario, teniendo en cuenta nuestro importante calendario, la próxima reunión de Quebec, en conmemoración al Cincuenta Aniversario de nuestra Organización, la Conferencia y reuniones que servirán de eslabones y sentarán las bases para el trabajo en preparación para la Cumbre Mundial convocada para el próximo año de 1996.

Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Original language Arabic) (Egypt): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor. At this stage I should like to begin, if I may, Mr Chairman, with expressing my thanks for the efforts made by the Drafting Committee, especially the Chairman and the Members, and the Secretariat of the Committee. Tremendous efforts were, in fact, made in order to produce this balanced text. Some paragraphs took hours of debate but the Report is fairly balanced although there was a trend in the Drafting Committee to perhaps over-summarize.

However, we certainly do not consider this report to be the best one we have ever produced but think it is an excellent guideline for future work. Some of our colleagues from Latin America, our colleague from Estonia and our colleague from Tunisia said that what we perhaps need is to make the reports more consolidated, a little briefer and more concentrated in some paragraphs. We believe that the efforts made by our Chairman, by our colleagues and by the Secretariat were excellent because they have enabled us, after much effort, to arrive at texts for the paragraphs which were giving difficulty.

I felt duty-bound to point out that you, Sir, have played a great role in guaranteeing the success of the Meeting. Very delicate issues were raised and many difficulties occurred but we have achieved very positive results.

Patrick PRUVOT (France): Je pense que je serai l'interprète des autres Etats Membres de l'Union européenne en saluant le travail du Comité de rédaction qui a produit un rapport que l'on peut qualifier sans problème d'opérationnel. C'est réellement pour nous un très bon rapport qui reflète parfaitement la qualité des débats qui ont eu lieu à notre Conseil puisque nous avons pu gagner deux jours sur notre calendrier grâce, et en cela je m'associe à ce que mon collègue vient de dire, à votre présidence. Je crois qu'effectivement nous sommes parvenus à un très bon produit et il convient d'en garder l'esprit même si certains aménagements peuvent effectivement être envisagés pour le prochain Conseil.

Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America): Given the risk that when only a few delegations speak, those which do not are not counted, I felt I had to comment on this item, and I assume that the previous remarks by my colleague from France counted as 15 countries in this case.

I would like to start by congratulating the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for what we think is one of the best reports we have seen in a long time. All the essentials of the debate are in this report. It does not contain the full flavour of the debate, nor need it do so. I remind Members of the Council that they have two other reports of Council activities. As specified in Rule 9 of the Rules of the Council, there is a verbatim report, which contains the full richness of the discussion of this Council. Commenting on remarks from my friend from Tunisia, it contains the full richness of the discussion on an EMPRES reserve fund. That will be available to the Secretariat and will become part of their future planning. It is available to and will be read by other members. In addition, Rule 6 requires the Director-General to prepare a very precise report on decisions made by the Council.

While congratulating the Chairman of the Drafting Committee on a very fine effort, I must also apologize to her for the tremendous torment which we put any Drafting Committee Chairman through. That work, although in this case very useful, is arduous, difficult and, frankly, not necessary. This type of report could be prepared much more easily by a rapporteur, still reflecting the full decisions made by this Council - a rapporteur working with friends of the rapporteur where that may be useful to be sure that views are accurately recorded. I would also be remiss if I did not comment on the very high cost of the Drafting Committee. When I left late last night there were still at least a dozen, probably two dozen members of the Secretariat: there were the translators, the security guards and everybody else supporting that; there were a couple of dozen members of the Council, who are also, in some form or another, receiving compensation for that work, although perhaps not immediately. This is money which could be much better spent on technical assistance or the other programmes of the Food and Agriculture Organization. In this Organization we spend much too much of our budget on ourselves, on governance. We would like to see that money put into the programmes of the Organization.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias distinguido Delegado de Estados Unidos. Veo que usted se orienta por una FAO más operativa, más orientada hacia las entidades de campo, y menos normativa y centralizada.

K. SHIMIZU (Japan): My delegation also fully supports the approach adopted at this Council, which was very constructive and very useful. I think most Council Members are satisfied with the report. This is just the beginning of this approach, which will be elaborated upon in the future. The actions, recommendations or other conclusions of the Council should be fully reflected in the report. In that respect, the report we have adopted is in line with this approach.

We appreciate the support that has been given by the Secretariat. When discussing the approach, we need a lot of help from the Secretariat, and in future further demands will be made of the Secretariat.

Kevin O'BRIEN (Australia): We just wanted to add our comments on the very exceptional work we think has been done in preparing this report for our consideration. Australia was a member of the Drafting Committee but we wanted to put on record the very energetic and constructive leadership qualities our Chairman demonstrated in trying to get a report that fairly and in a balanced and constructive way reflected the views of all participants, which has added to the quality of the report. We would also like to highlight what I can only categorize as the exceptional contribution of Dr Hjort and the members of his staff in taking on board this new approach that we are trying to develop. We agree this is only a beginning. We appreciate the forbearance of Dr Hjort and his staff in trying to develop it. We noted an appreciable increase in the quality of the material as we kept developing this. We think it can be a continuing process, a process which accurately reflects the views of all our membership and can give clear guidance to the other Committees and to Conference on the decisions that Council has taken.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On behalf of the Director-General, the entire Secretariat and myself, I want to express appreciation for the many comments that have been received about the work of the Secretariat and the support that it has provided. I also want to express appreciation for the work of this Council, and for the manner in which the Chairman and the Council conducted the business. It was a heavy agenda, with rather sensitive items, and the meeting has been conducted in an extremely business-like manner, even managing to complete the full agenda in less time than programmed. In fact, I believe you have set a new standard in terms of the time it requires to complete your work.

I also want to join those who have expressed appreciation to the Drafting Committee. I might add that I got to know members of the Drafting Committee better than I would have perhaps desired, but it was an interesting experience and I am pleased with the result. There were times - when we were trying to identify exactly what you wanted - when it seemed to me that you wanted to say nothing, and I alleged that we had almost accomplished that in one or two cases.

I also want to express the appreciation of the Organization and the Director-General for the work of both Working Groups, the one on the Declaration and the one on the Code of Conduct for Fisheries.

Finally, to those of you who have not been able to obtain your government's support for a zero real-growth budget, I wish you well in your attempts to do so before you return for the Conference.

Godspeed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Muy breve señor Presidente, sólo para agradecer a todos los miembros del Consejo sus comentarios y para señalar, una vez más, el esfuerzo sostenido e ilustrado del Dr Hjort, que sirvió de inestimable apoyo a las deliberaciones del Comité, al trabajo de la Secretaría que produjo sucesivas revisiones, versiones, enmiendas e impresiones y vueltas a imprimir de todas nuestras discusiones; realmente mi gran agradecimiento y creo que todos vamos a tener en cuenta los comentarios que han hecho las delegaciones sobre lo que debe reflejar el Informe del Consejo. Sin duda hay un solo principio que ha regido esta materia y es que el Informe debe reflejar lo que los miembros del Consejo quieren que el Informe refleje.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien distinguidos Delegados, con esto llegamos a la conclusión de nuestros trabajos. Nos hemos agradecido los unos a los otros el esfuerzo realizado y las conclusiones logradas y pienso que debemos estar satisfechos por esta orientación importante que ha cobrado el Consejo no sólo en sus debates, sino también en su Informe. Ciertamente, como algunos delegados han mencionado, estamos todavía en un proceso de ajuste del tipo y calidad de Informe que queremos, en algunos casos se podría quizás adelgazar más, en otros, sin embargo, quizás debería ser algo más descriptivo para reflejar posiciones divergentes que son de importancia fundamental para la Organización. Yo creo que ninguno de ustedes querría un Informe que fuera un mero esqueleto, pero también en esto, como alguien indicaba - y indicaba bien -, la personalidad del Comité de Redacción es importante; de alguna manera como grupo, como cuerpo, se convierte en una persona que cobra una identidad, y creo que la identidad de este Comité de Redacción nos ha permitido tener una nueva calidad, un nuevo tipo de Informe que sienta un precedente de mayor ejecución y claridad.

Creo también, distinguidos Delegados, que debemos estar muy satisfechos de que el Consejo haya logrado llevar a cabo sus tareas con anticipación suficiente y quizás, probar también, que podemos hacer en el futuro ahorros a la Organización en ese sentido, sin faltar a nuestro deber para tratar los temas con la calidad y profundidad necesaria.

Todo esto ha sido posible porque se ubica en el contexto de una transformación de nuestra Organización hacia una más eficaz, más transparente y más eficiente. En todo esto debemos agradecer al Director General por el esfuerzo que realiza en llevar el barco hacia nuevos rumbos y con ello darle una nueva legitimidad a esta Organización de la que tanto requerirá la humanidad para enfrentar las grandes necesidades, los grandes retos, sobre todo de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Por eso, el primer reconocimiento debe de ir a él, al Director General, y, en segundo lugar, al Secretariado de la Organización, al señor Hjort por el papel importante, fundamental diría yo, que ha jugado en orientar los trabajos, en apoyar al Comité de Redacción y al ofrecernos, también, comentarios útiles que nos han guiado.

Mi agradecimiento también va hacia el Secretario General del Consejo y al asistente del Secretario General del Consejo, al Dr Zenny, al Dr Röbbel por el apoyo que, no sólo me han ofrecido a mí, sino a todos ustedes y en tener la documentación y los preparativos listos para que este Consejo funcione adecuadamente.

Nuestro agradecimiento también, a las taquígrafas, que como ustedes ven han tomado nota de cada palabra aquí pronunciada y que con su trabajo permiten que se reflejen en los verbatim, discusiones y debates que liberan al Informe de la necesidad de reproducirlos; a las mensajeras, porque nos permiten comunicarnos y hacer más viva nuestra actividad; a los intérpretes, desde luego, cuyo papel, fundamental y esencial, permite que este Consejo lleve a cabo sus debates; a los guardias, desde luego, como se ha mencionado ya aquí, por ofrecer la seguridad necesaria; a la Organización en general, y a todos aquéllos que han participado en nuestros trabajos, pero, mi último reconocimiento debe de ir a ustedes, señores Delegados y Observadores, porque creo que hemos logrado mantener un alto espíritu, un espíritu positivo, creativo, de gran contribución para los trabajos de la Organización. Yo espero que este espíritu, que esta voluntad política, que se ha expresado aquí en nuestros debates, se refleje también en otras áreas de apoyo a la Organización, sobre todo para permitirle que a través de su programa, que a través de su acción, cumpla con el alto mandato, con el reto que tiene frente a toda la humanidad.

Con estas últimas palabras y si no hay ninguna otra observación, me despido de ustedes y espero verlos en octubre próximo.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 50.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas.